

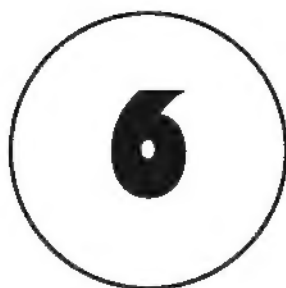


6

SUZUKA

KOUJI SEO

SUZUKA



Kouji Seo

**TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
David Ury**

**LETTERED BY
North Market Street Graphics**



BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

Suzuka 6

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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A Note from the Author



I STARTED GROWING TOMATOES ON MY VERANDA, HOPING THAT I'D HAVE A CROP READY BY SUMMER. THE DIRECTIONS SAY TO PRUNE THE PLANT ONCE IT GETS BIG, BUT I JUST COULDN'T BEAR TO HURT IT. SO I DECIDED TO BUY A BIG POT AND TRANSFER THE WHOLE THING INTO IT. THIS SUMMER, I SHOULD BE UP TO MY EARS IN TOMATOES.

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

- san:** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sama:** This is one level higher than "-san." It is used to confer great respect.
- dono:** This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

- kun:** This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.
- chan:** This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.
- Bozu:** This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/

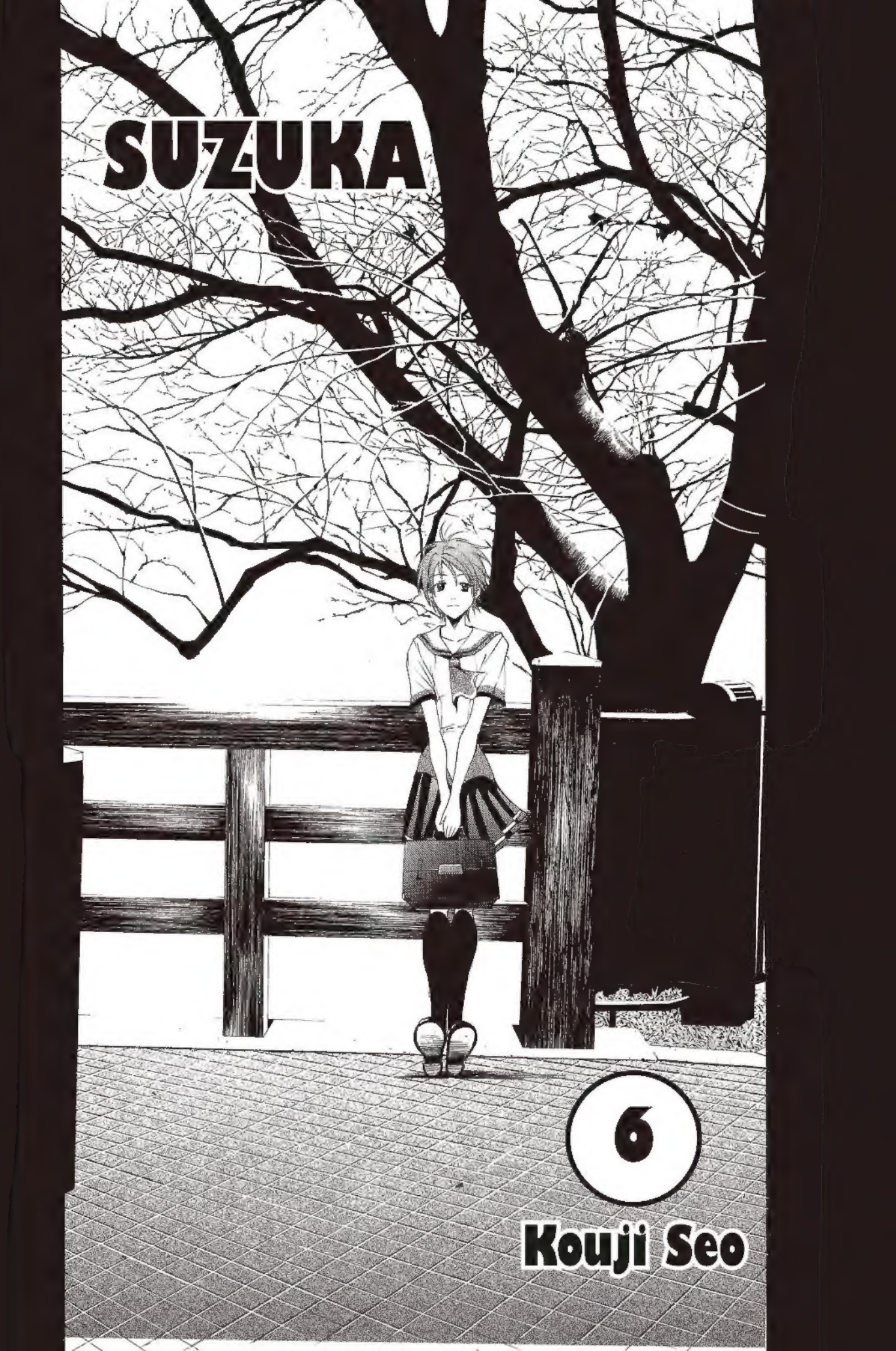
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

SUZUKA



6

Kouji Seo

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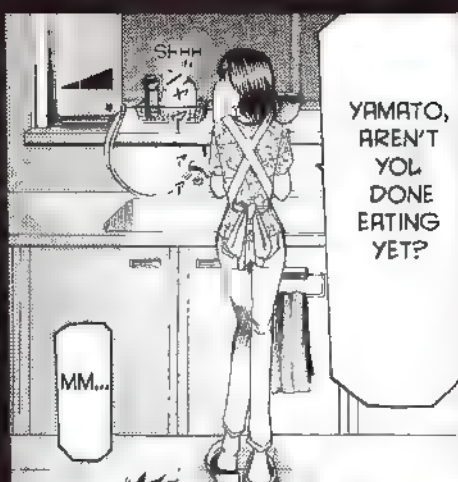
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WELL,
YOU'D BETTER
GET OFF
YOUR BUTT.

YOU'RE
GOING
TO TAKE
SUZUKA
TO SEE
THE
FIREFLIES,
AREN'T
YOU?



YAMATO,
AREN'T YOU
DONE
EATING
YET?

MM...



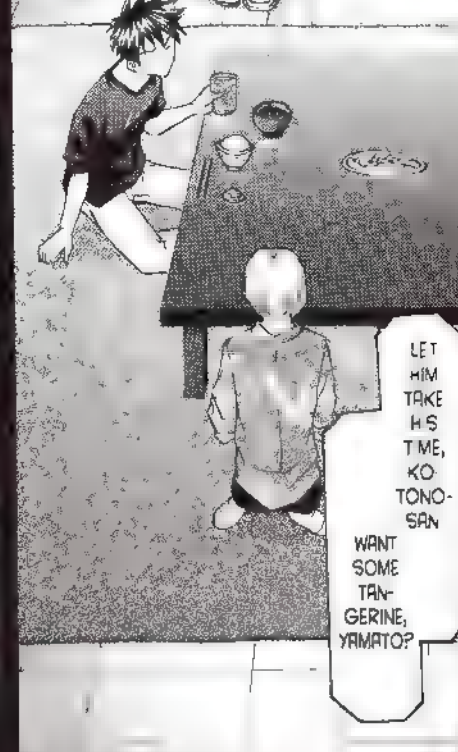
WELL, THEN
HURRY
UP
SUZUKA-
CHAN'S
WAITING
FOR YOU.

WOULD
YOU
RATHER
HAVE A
PEAR?

I
KNOW,
I
KNOW.
CALM
DOWN.



FIREFLIES,
HUH...



LET
HIM
TAKE
HIS
TIME,
KO-
TONO-
SAN

WANT
SOME
TAN-
GERINE,
YAMATO?

SUZUKA



#41 FIREFLIES



NOW, YOU
WANNA
GO FOR
A WALK
WITH ME....

JUST
WHAT THE
HELL
ARE YOU
TRYING
TO DO?



SHE
SAYS ALL
THAT CRAP,
AND THEN
SHE JUST
SUDDENLY
CHANGES
HER MIND...

I
ALREADY
TOLD
HONOKA-
CHAN
I'D BE
HOME
TODAY.

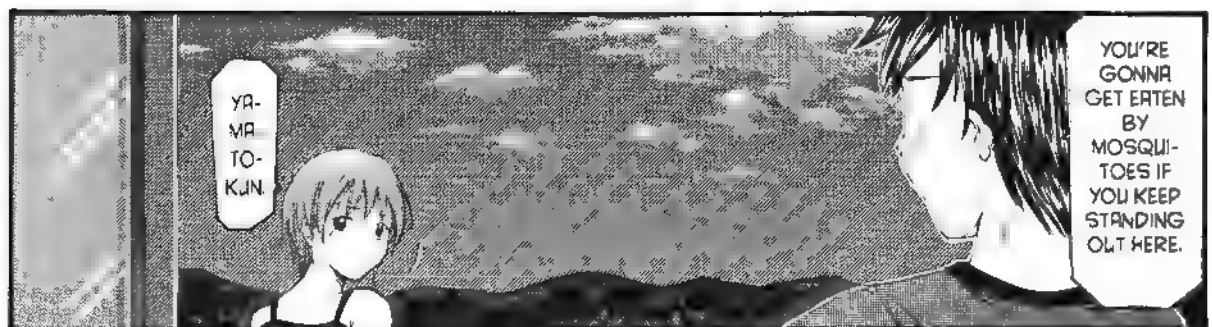


HUH?



WHERE
THE
HELL'D
SHE GO?
MAYBE
SHE'S
OUT
ON THE
PORCH.

STEP



YA-
MA
TO-
KUN.

YOU'RE
GONNA
GET EATEN
BY
MOSQUI-
TOES IF
YOU KEEP
STANDING
OUT HERE.



THAT
CLOCK
IN
SIGHT



ONE
IN
SIGHT

DON'T
BE
HOLD
DOWN
THE
KEY



IT
SEEMS
NOT
BETTER

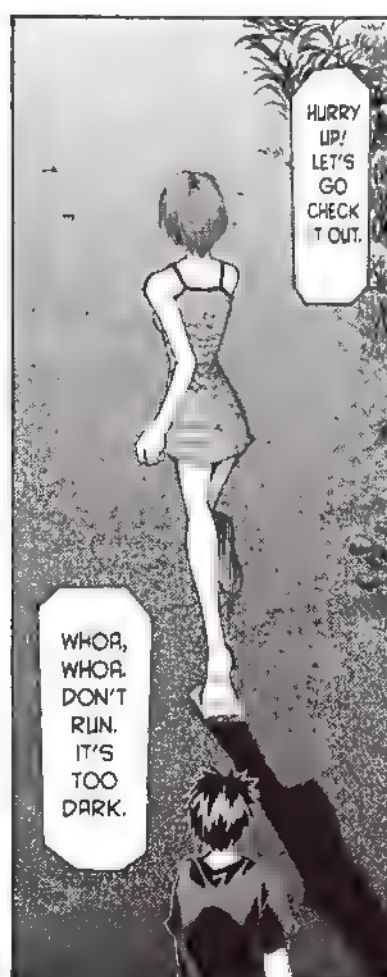
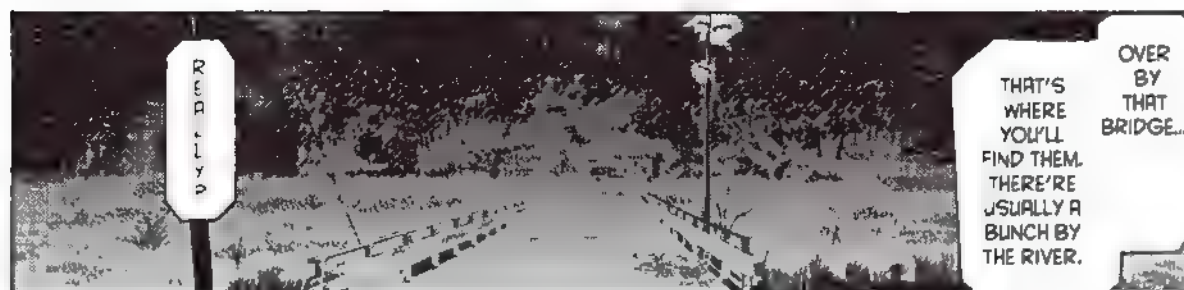
REALLY
A CERTAIN
SOME
HAPPY WAY
TAKING
WAY FOR
LIVING
FINISHING
DURING

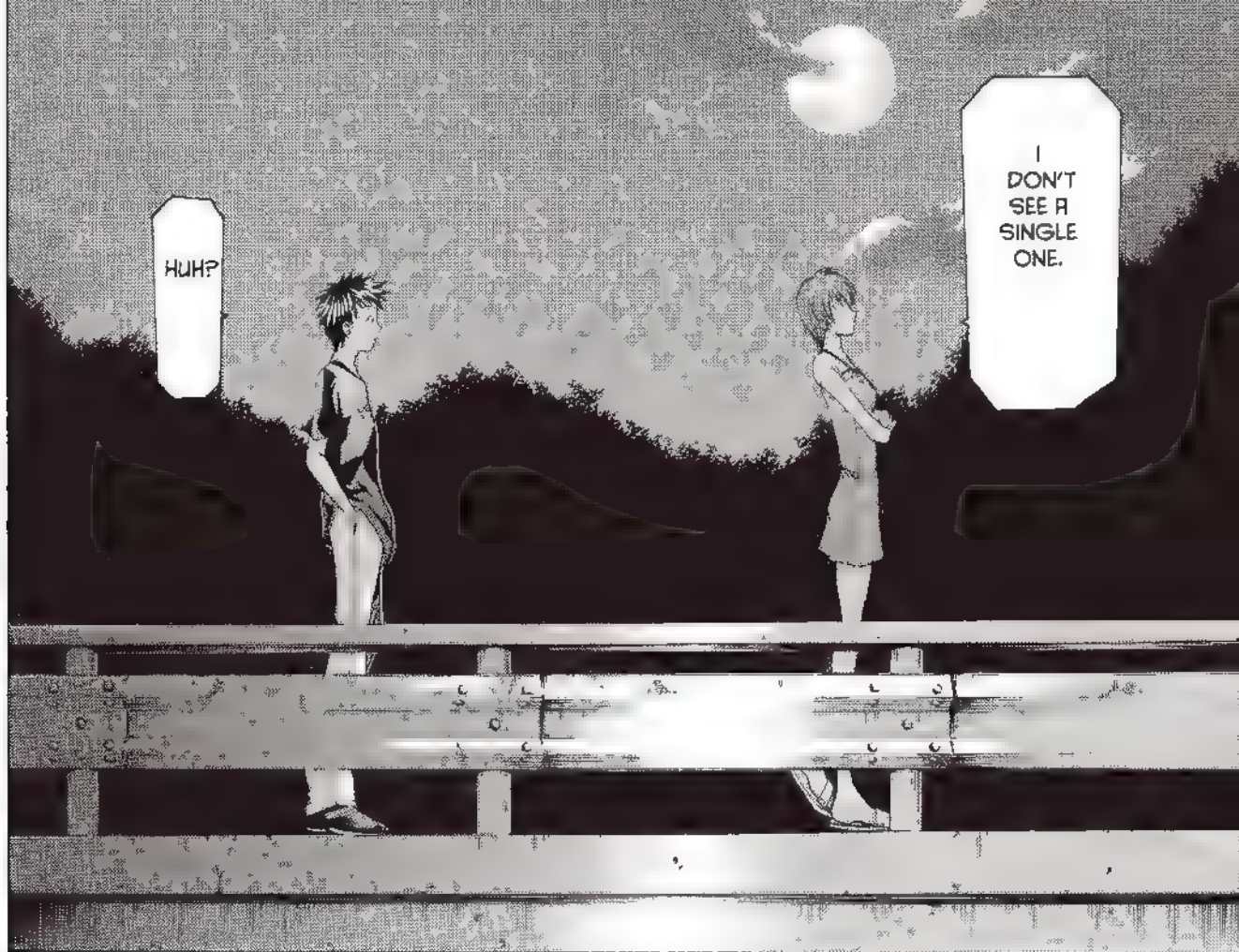


WOW
REALLY
SOME
THE
HAPPY
WAY
TAKING
WAY FOR
LIVING
FINISHING
DURING

ONE
IN
SIGHT







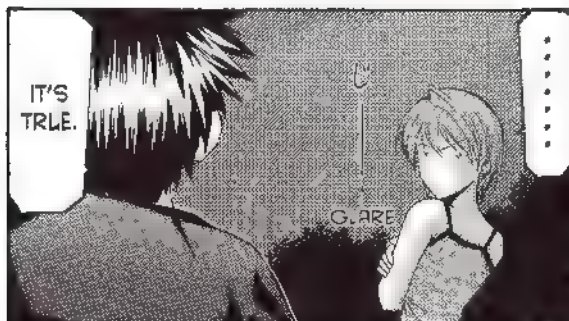
HUH?

I
DON'T
SEE A
SINGLE
ONE.



...BUZZ-
ING
UP
A
STORM...

THERE'S
ALWAYS
TONS
OF THEM
HERE...
EVERY
SINGLE
SUMMER...



IT'S
TRUE.

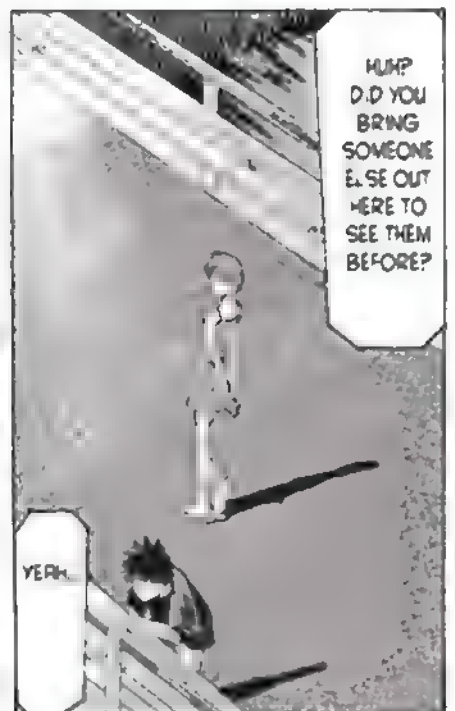
GLARE

...



HUH?
WHAT
THE
HELL?

HUH?





WITHOUT
EVEN
SAYING
A
WORD.

I FIGURED
"WHAT THE
HELL" AND
TOLD HER
LOVED HER
ANYWAY.
SHE JUST
TURNED
AROUND
AND
WALKED
AWAY.



WH-
WHAT'S
SO
FUNNY?

HEH
HA
HA
HA



WELL...THAT
NIGHT...
THERE
WASN'T
A SINGLE
DAMN
FIREFLY
OUT HERE
AND THEN
IT STARTED
POURING
DOWN RAIN.

MY
WHOLE
PLAN
WAS
RUINED.



THAT'S
SO
YAMATO-
KUN!

I
CAN
TOTALLY
PICTURE
THAT.





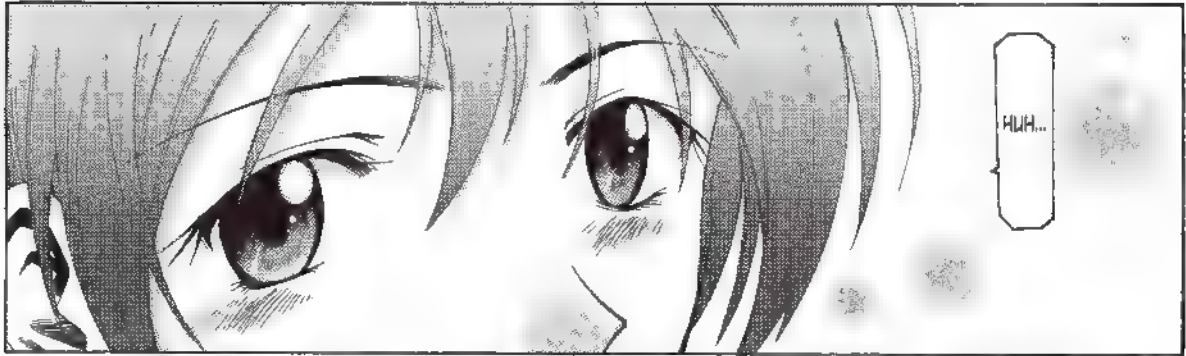
WHAT
THE HELL
S THAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?
I'M
TALKING
ABOUT
YOU!



WHAT?

OH,
WHAT ARE
YOU
BRAGGING
ABOUT
NOW?

YOU'LL
TELL JUST
ANY GIRL
YOU LOVE
HER,
WON'T
YOU,
YAMATO-
KUN



HUH...



UM...

I
MEAN...

UH...



HUH?

SO,
HOW WERE
YOU GONNA
TELL THAT
GIRL YOU
LIKED HER
BEFORE
EVERYTHING
WENT
WRONG?
WHAT WAS
YOUR PLAN?



AH!

LOOK
THERE'S
ONE!
THERE'S
A
FIREFLY!



WHAT
WOULD
BE THE
POINT?

WH-
WHAT?
SHUT
UP!



I BET
YOU HAD
IT ALL
PLANNED
OUT,
RIGHT?

COME ON, AS
LONG
AS WE'RE
HERE YOU
MIGHT AS
WELL TELL ME.
PUT
ON YOUR
WHOLE AKIT-
SUKI
LOVE
CONFESSION
SHOW!



COME
ON!
I SAID
DO IT!

JUST
HURRY UP
AND DO
IT
ALREADY!



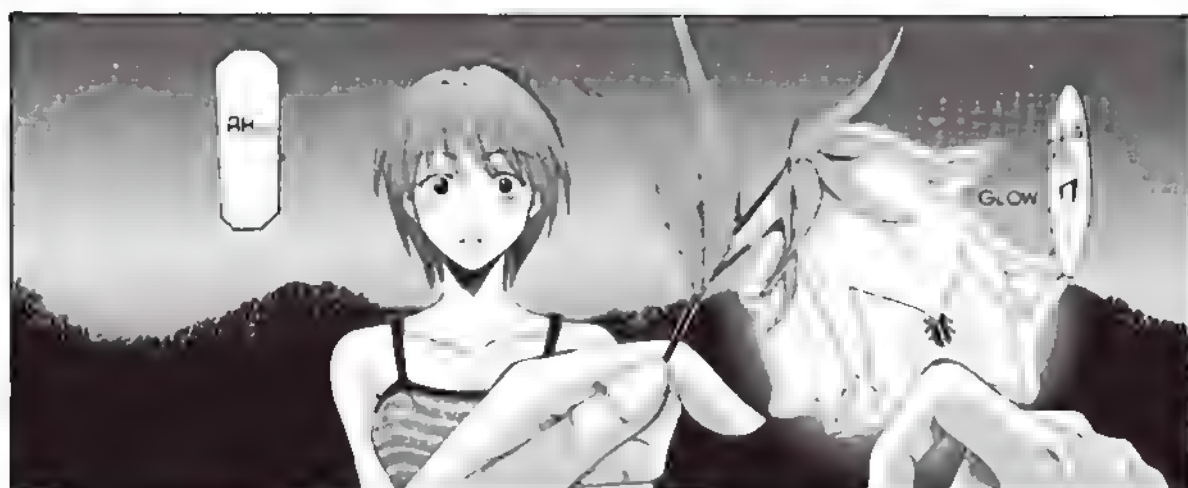
HEY,
WHERE
ARE
YOU
GO-
ING?

YOU'RE
FUCKING
NUTS.



HUH?

IS
SHE
THREATENING
ME?



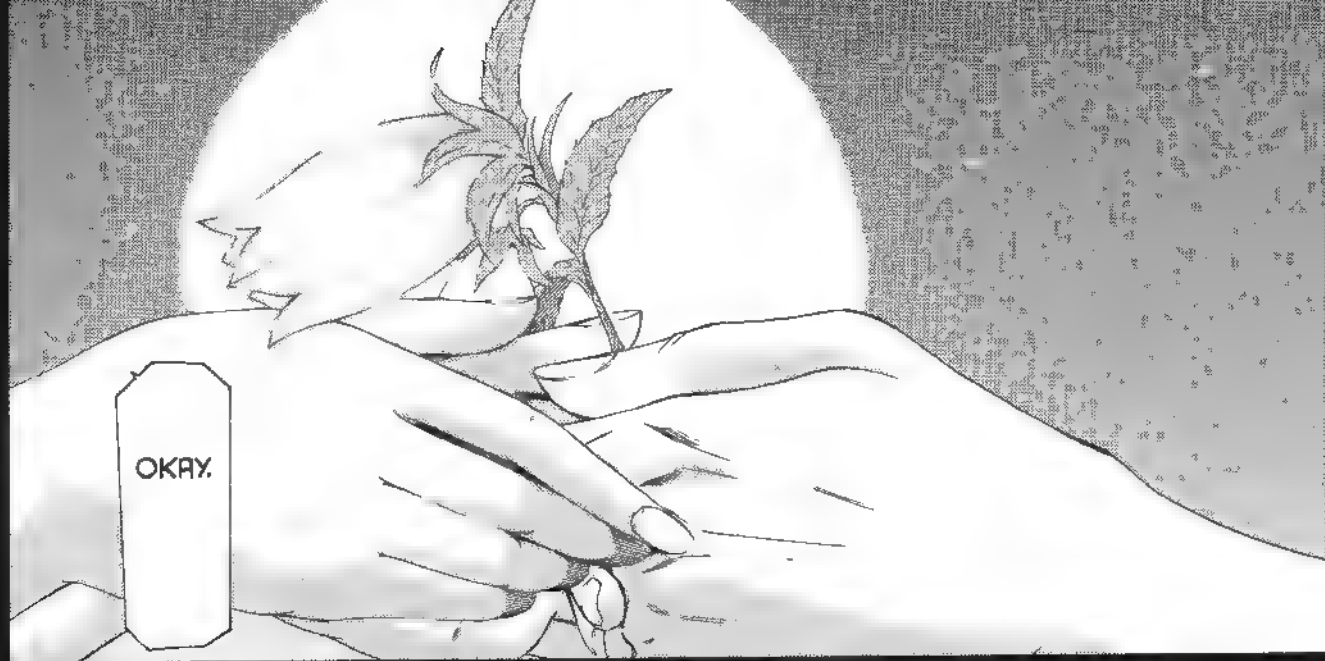


THAT
WAS
PRETTY
MUCH
IT.



WILL
YOU...

...GO
OUT
WITH
ME?



WHA--?

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?
STOP
MESSING
WITH ME!



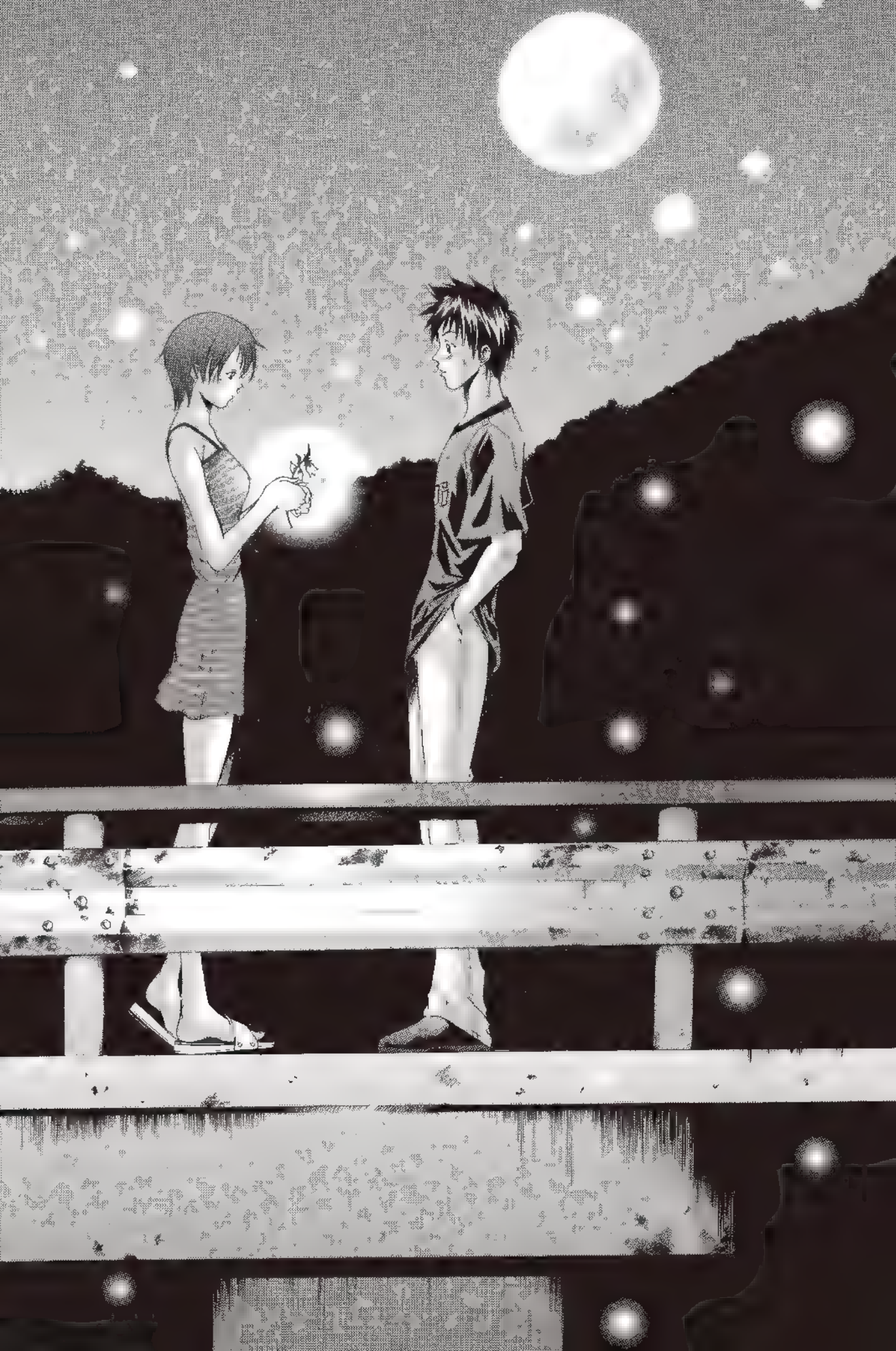
HUH?



...MESSING
WITH
YOU.

I'M
NOT...









HUH?



PSYCH!
JUST
KIDDING.



VOICE



Y-
YOU'RE
SUCH A
LITTLE-!

DID
YOU
ACTUALLY
THINK
WAS
SERIOUS?

YOU
TURNED
BEET
RED!
YOU'RE
SUCH AN
IDIOT.



UH...

YEAH...



JUST
KID-
DING!



OF
COURSE
SHE WAS.

THERE'S
NO WAY
ASAHIKA
WOULD
EVER SAY
THAT FOR
REAL.



IT'S
SO
PRETTY!

LOOK
AT ALL
THESE
FIRE-
FLIES.

I GUESS
OUR EYES
JUST
WEREN'T
ADJUSTED
TO THE
DARKNESS
YET.

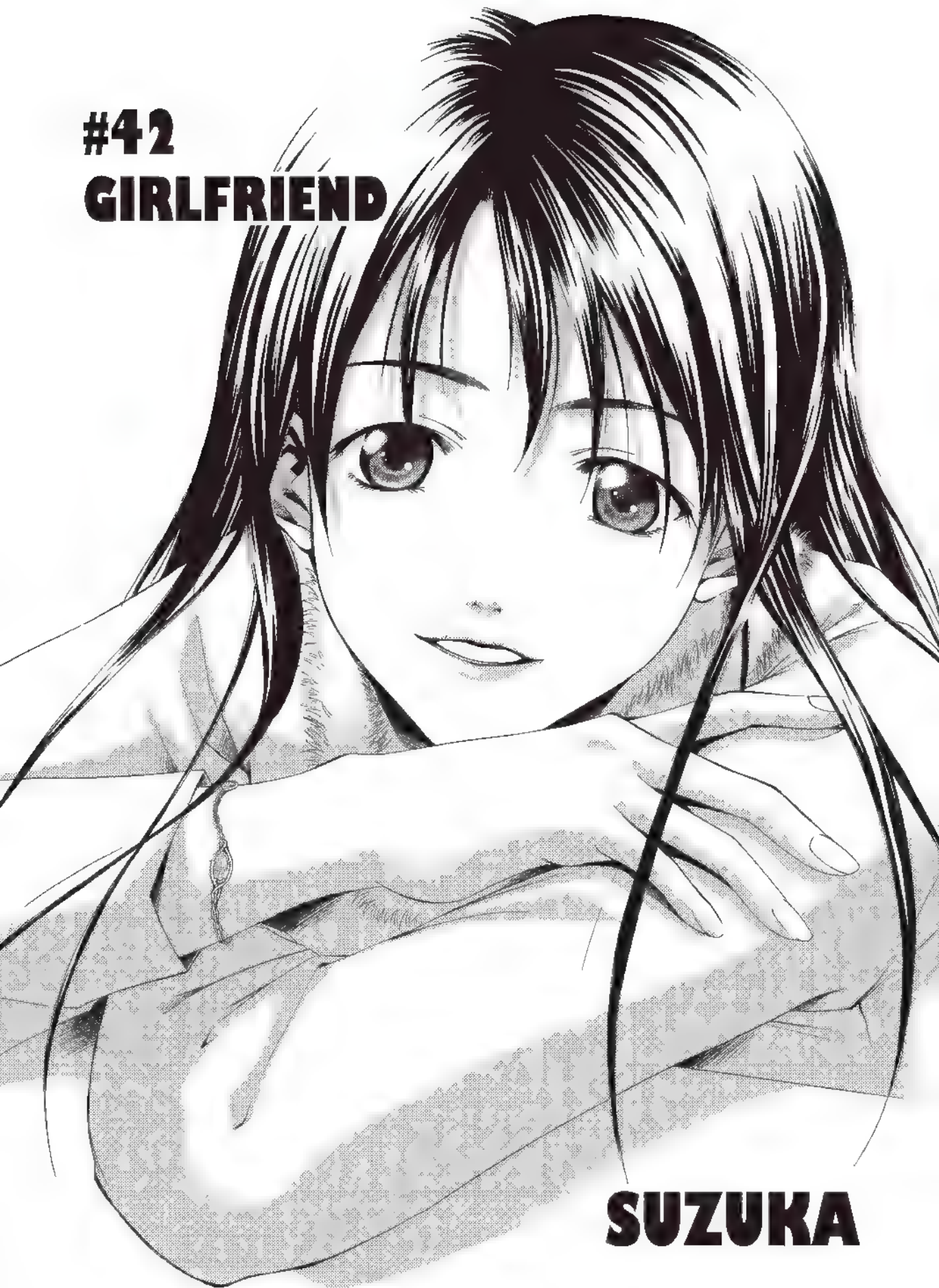


**SUZUKA
FOUR-PANEL THEATER
NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR
GOALS - PART 2**



#42

GIRLFRIEND



SUZUKA





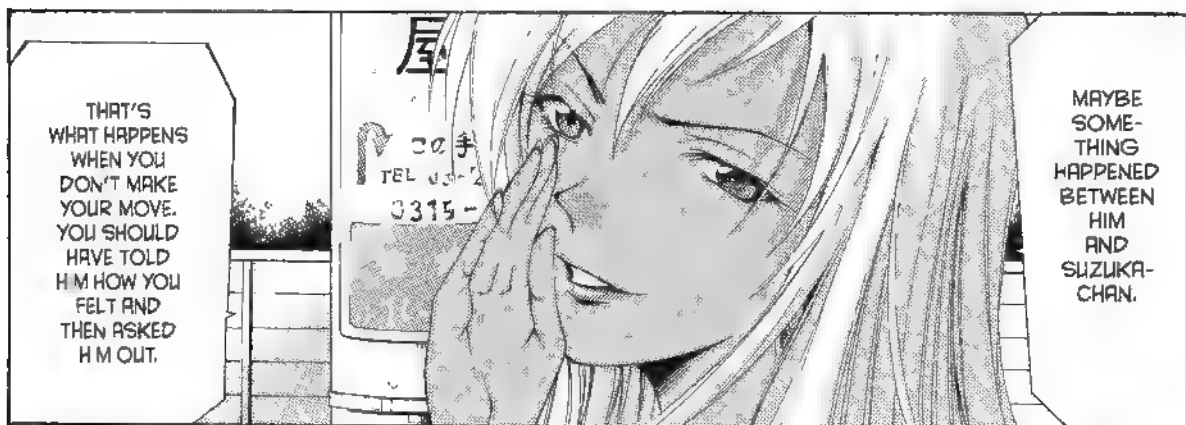
...OKAY.

OH...



WELL, APPARENTLY SOMETHING CAME UP AND THEY HAD TO STAY ANOTHER NIGHT. THEY'LL BE BACK THIS AFTERNOON

B-BUT THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO COME HOME YESTERDAY.



THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T MAKE YOUR MOVE. YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM HOW YOU FELT AND THEN ASKED HIM OUT.

MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN HIM AND SUZUKA-CHAN.



...YOU MIGHT END UP LOSING YAMATO-KUN.

BUT IF YOU KEEP SLACKING OFF..



STEP
STEP

BUT WE'RE ALREADY GOING OUT.



NOTHING HAPPENED BETWEEN HIM AND SUZUKA.

OH, REALLY? OKAY, THEN...



SURE...

I'LL
GO
OUT
WITH
YOU.



.....

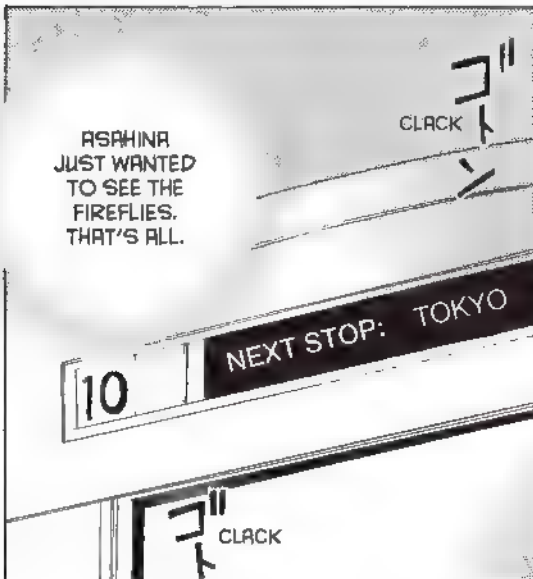


SHIT...

I
ACTUALLY
THOUGHT
SHE WAS
SERIOUS
FOR A
SECOND
THERE.



I'M
NOT
MESSING
WITH
YOU.

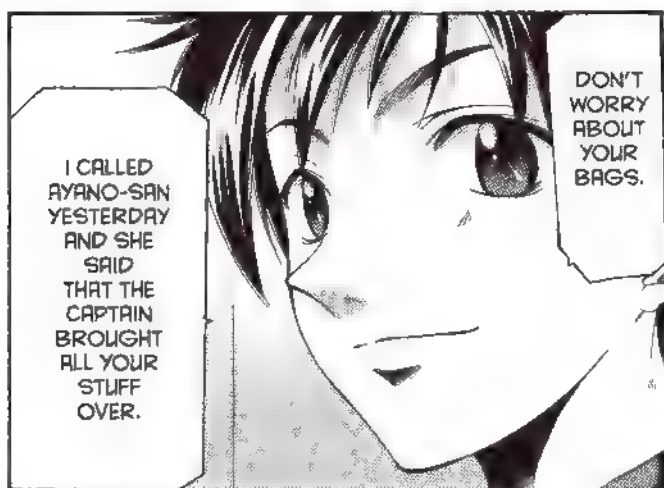




WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT LUNCH?
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING PLANNED, THEN WE MAY AS WELL GET SOMETHING TO EAT BEFORE WE GO BACK.

YEAH.

CHATTER



I CALLED AYANO-SAN YESTERDAY AND SHE SAID THAT THE CAPTAIN BROUGHT ALL YOUR STUFF OVER.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR BAGS.



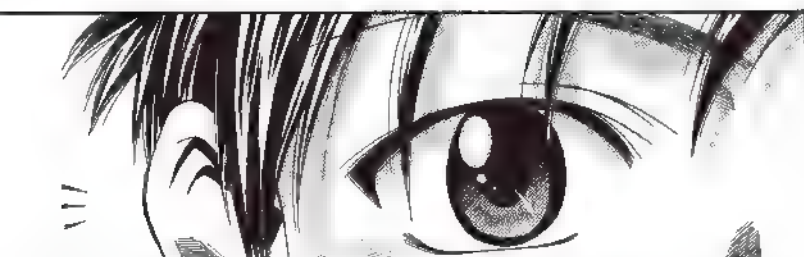
BUT I'M KIND OF WORRIED ABOUT MY BAGS AND STUFF.



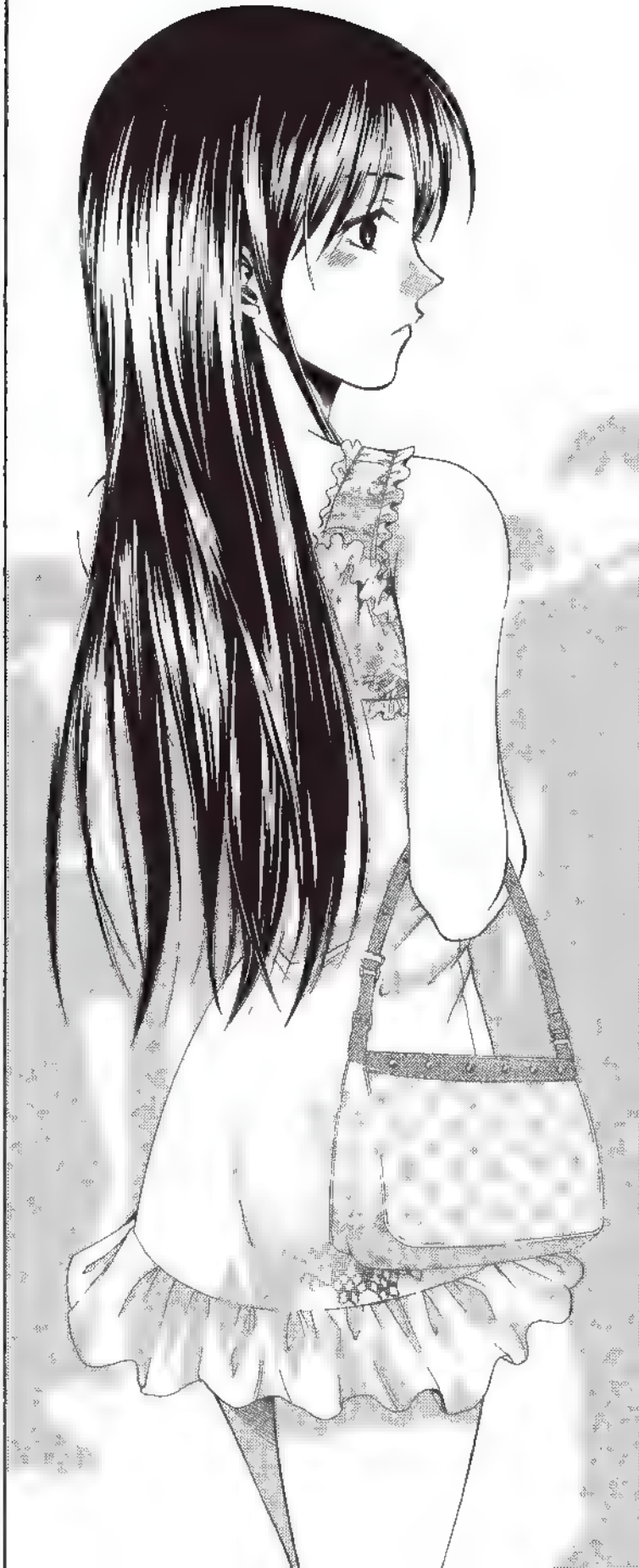
YEAH, SO YOU CAN JUST RELAX AND HAVE SOME LUNCH.

OH.

WELL, OKAY THEN.



I THINK I'LL JUST GO STRAIGHT TO SCHOOL.







I'LL
PAY
BACK
ALL THE
MONEY
YOU
LENT ME.

DON'T
WORRY.



NO
RUSH
OR
ANYTHING.

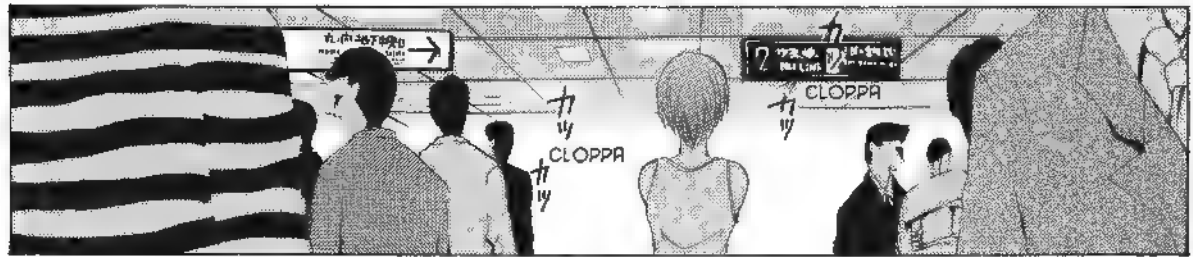
O-O-KAY...



SWIP

A-ASA-
HINA...

WELL,
BYE.
I'M
GONNA
HEAD
BACK.



CLOPPA

CLOPPA



MAYBE
SOME-
THING
HAPPENED
BETWEEN
HIM AND
SUZUKA-
CHAN.





ギュッ
SQUEEZE



U-UM...
I WAS
JUST
TRYING
TO HELP
CARRY
YOUR
BAG.



WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING,
HONOKA-
CHAN.

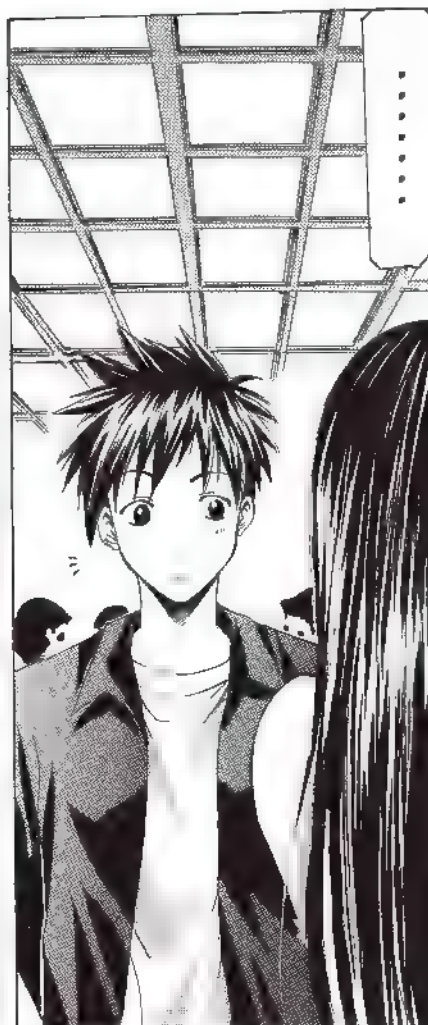


HUH?
OH...IS
IT?

RUSTLE
ガサッ

BUT MY
BAG'S
IN THIS
HAND.











HONOKA-
CHAN...



ALL THIS
TIME SHE'D
BEEN
WAITING
TO HEAR
IT, BUT...

I NEVER
EVEN
TOLD HER
I LOVED
HER.



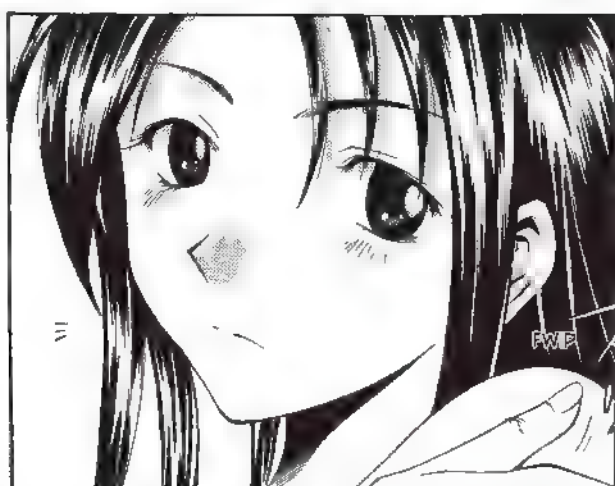
AH...
I'M
SORRY.

I'M
EMBAR-
RASSING
YOU,
AREN'T I!
I GUESS
THIS ISN'T
REALLY THE
BEST PLACE
TO TALK
ABOUT IT.

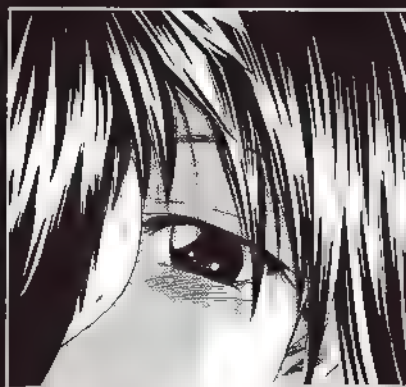
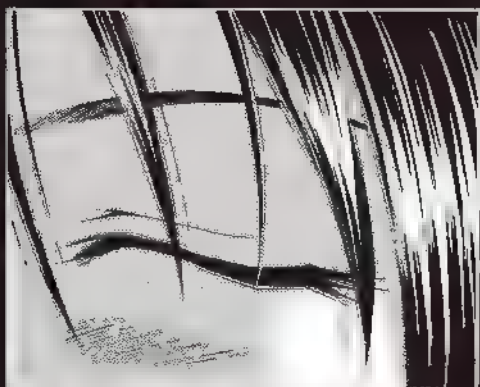


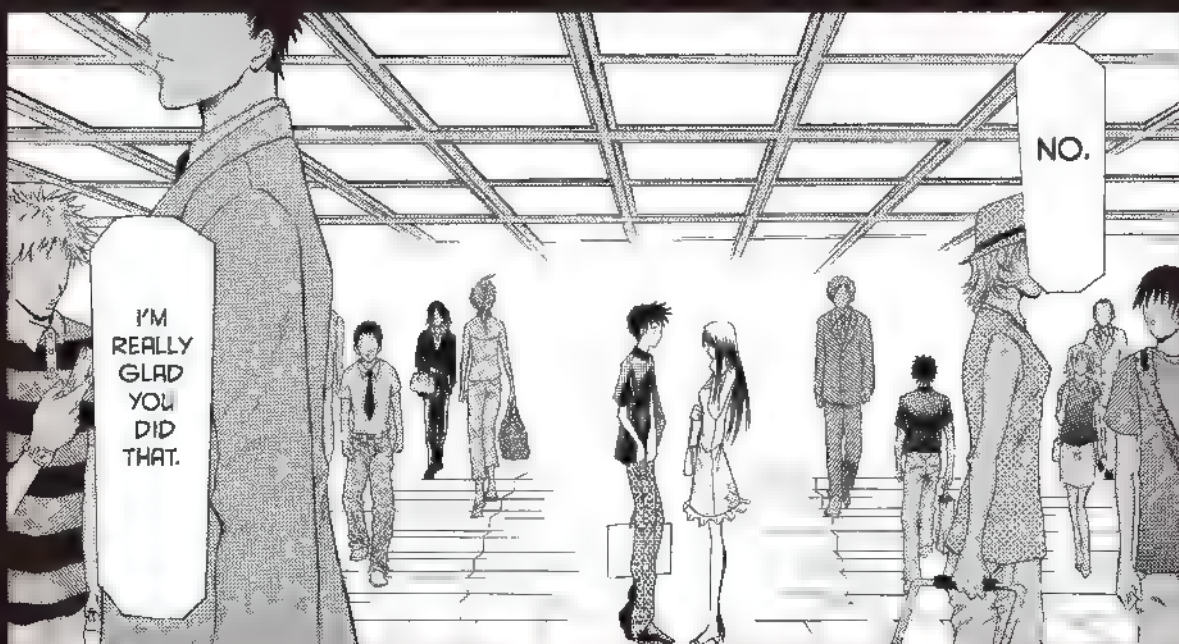
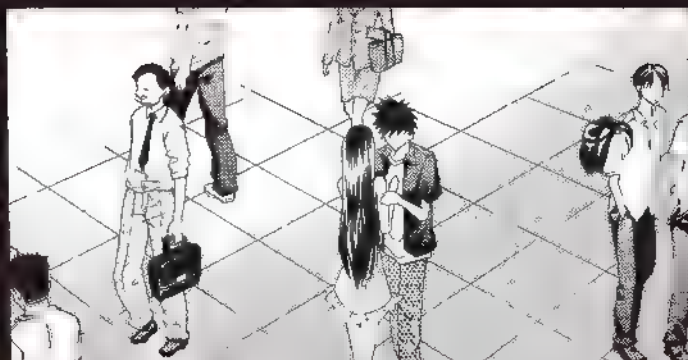
...BEEN
KIND
OF
WORRIED.

I
THOUGHT
MAYBE
YOU
DIDN'T
REALLY
LOVE ME.



I'M IN
LOVE WITH
HONOKA
SAKURAI.

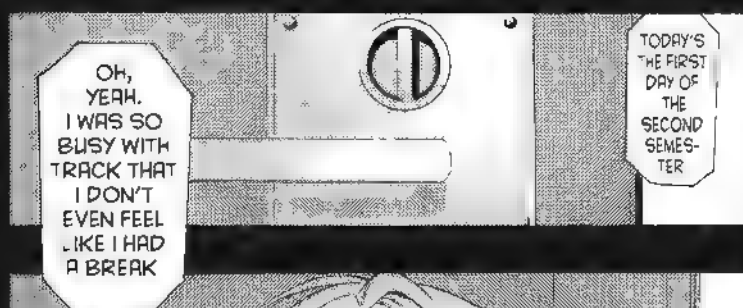
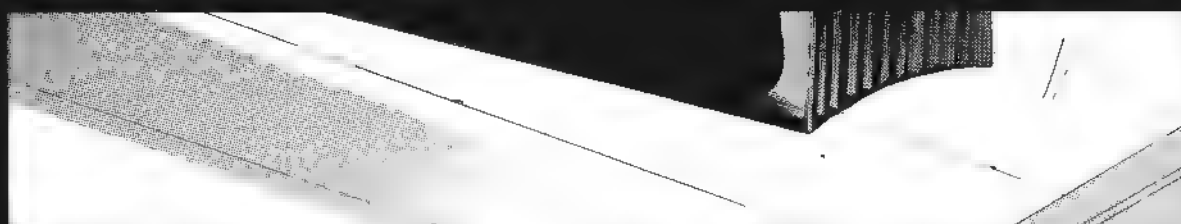






**SUZUKA
FOUR-PANEL THEATER
NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE
THE REGULAR**





OH,
YEAH.
I WAS SO
BUSY WITH
TRACK THAT
I DON'T
EVEN FEEL
LIKE I HAD
A BREAK

TODAY'S
THE FIRST
DAY OF
THE
SECOND
SEMESTER



GOOD
MORN-
ING,
AKITSUKI-
KUN.

GOOD
MORN-
ING...

HONOKA
CHAN.

SUZUKA



#43
INSTINCT

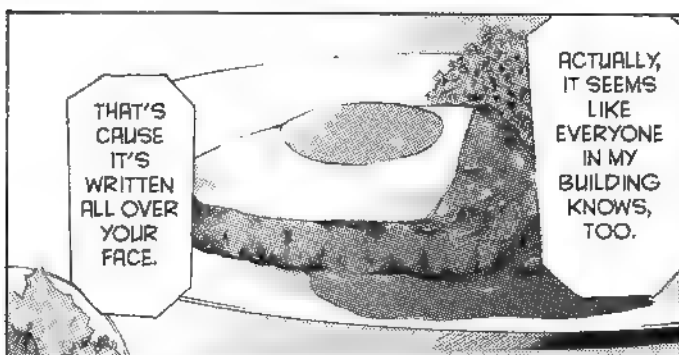


DID
YOU KISS
SAKURAI
YET?

SO?



SPLIRT



THAT'S
CAUSE
IT'S
WRITTEN
ALL OVER
YOUR
FACE.

ACTUALLY,
IT SEEMS
LIKE
EVERYONE
IN MY
BUILDING
KNOWS,
TOO.



YOU'RE
SUCH
AN
ID OT. I
AL-
READY
KISSED
HER,
MAN.

ACTUALLY,
THE
WHOLE
THING
STARTED
WITH A
KISS.

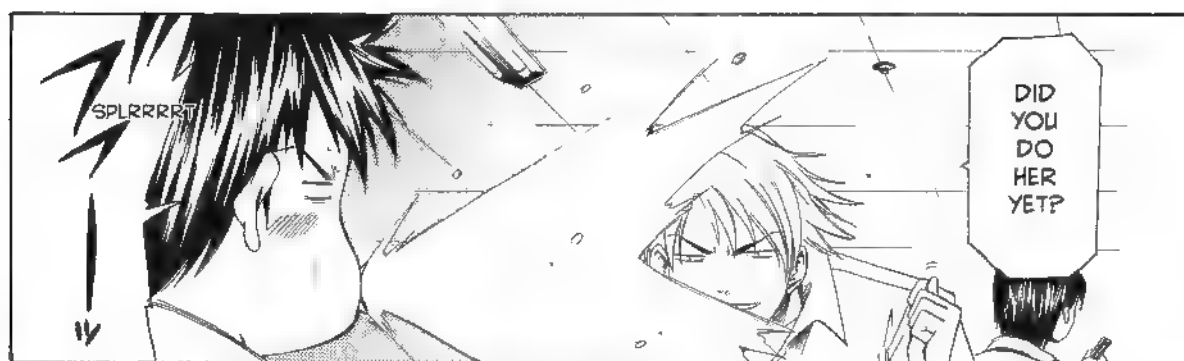
IT'S
NOT
LIKE
YOU'RE
GOING
OUT FOR
REAL

WELL,
IT'S NO
BIG
DEAL.
I MEAN,
YOU TWO
ARE
JUST
PLAYING
HOUSE
ANYWAY.

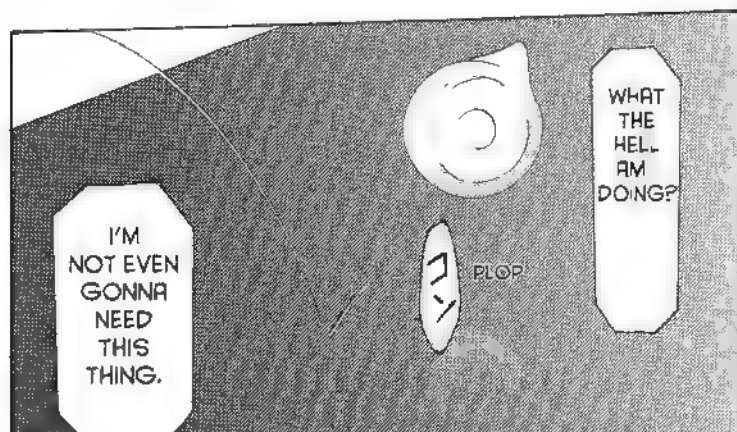
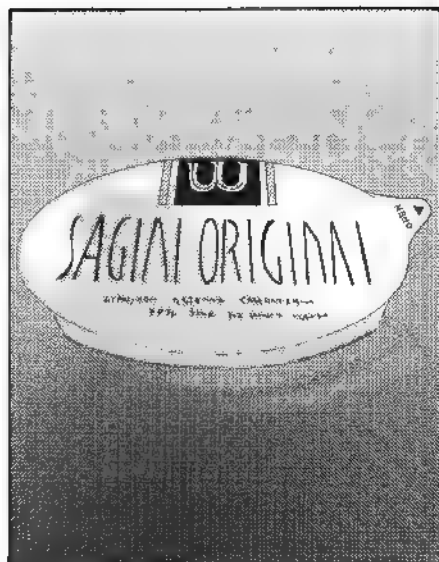


H-
HOW'D
YOU
EVEN
KNOW WE
WERE
GOING
OUT?

GIVE ME
A BREAK.
YOU WERE
SNEAKING
OUT TO
SEE HER
EVERY
FREAKING
NIGHT.

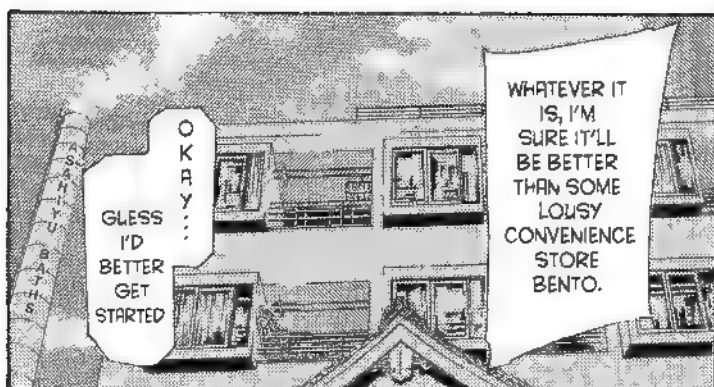
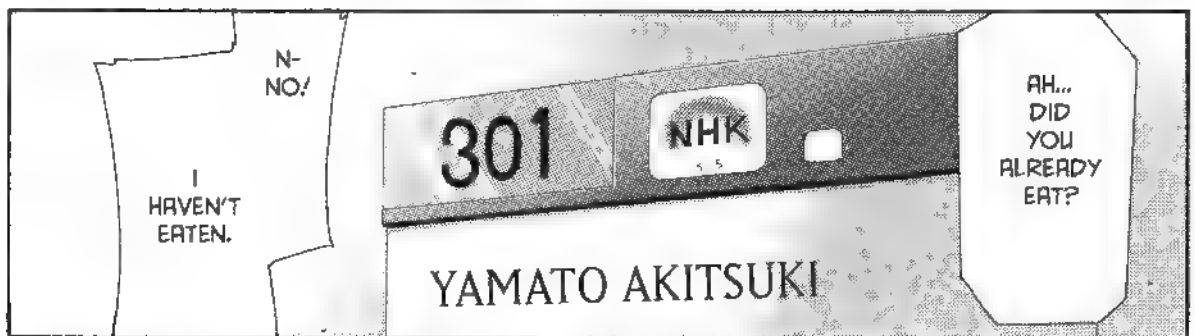


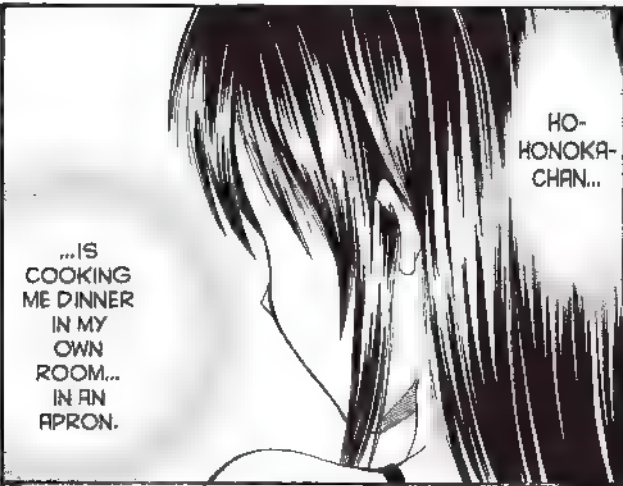
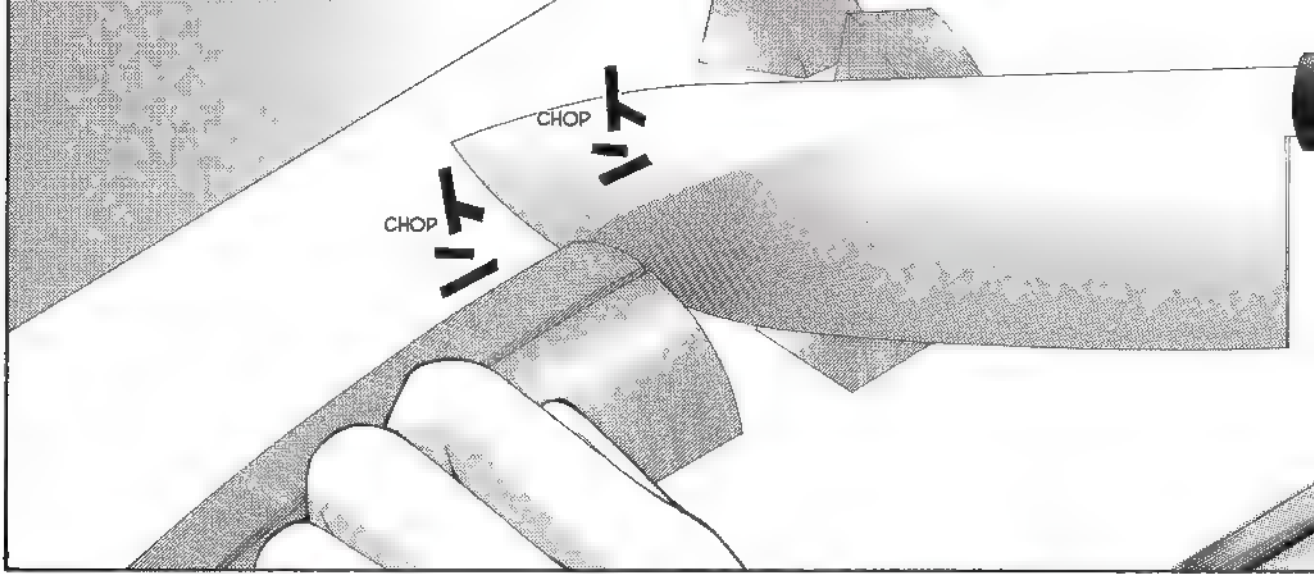


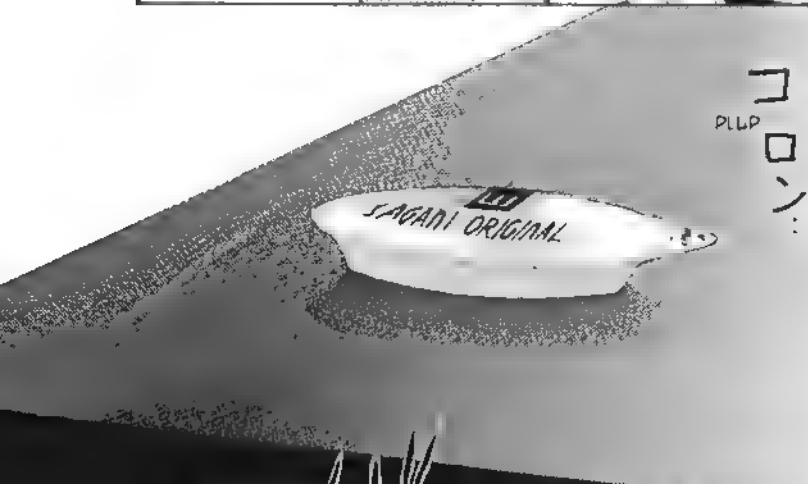


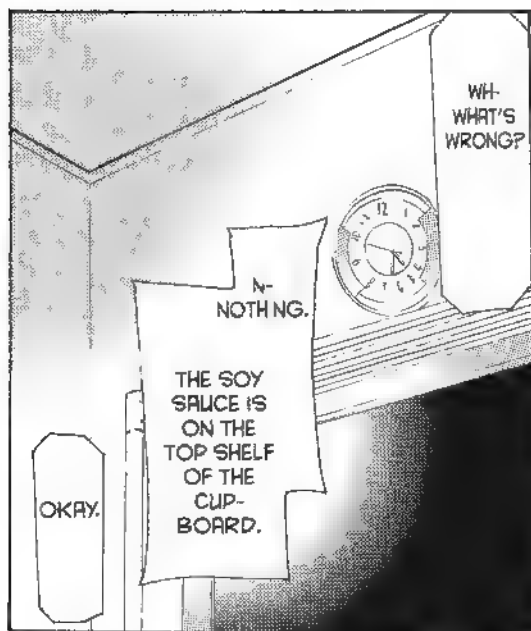














YOU
COULD
BE ON
IRON
CHEF,
HONOKA-
CHAN.

MMM.
IT'S
REALLY
GOOD!



I'M
SO
GLAD
YOU
LIKE
IT.

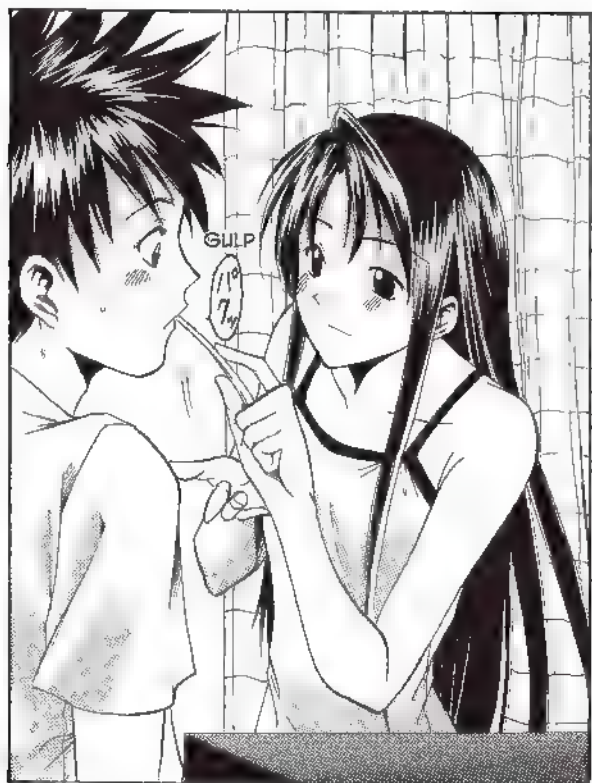


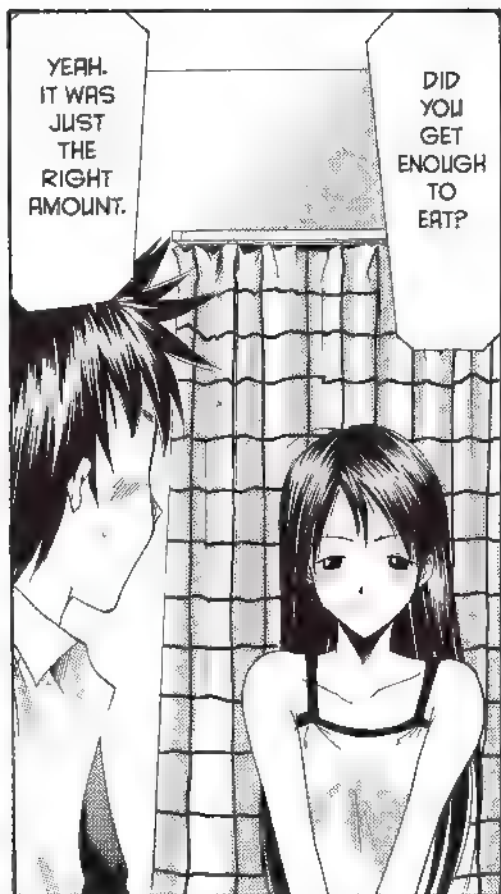
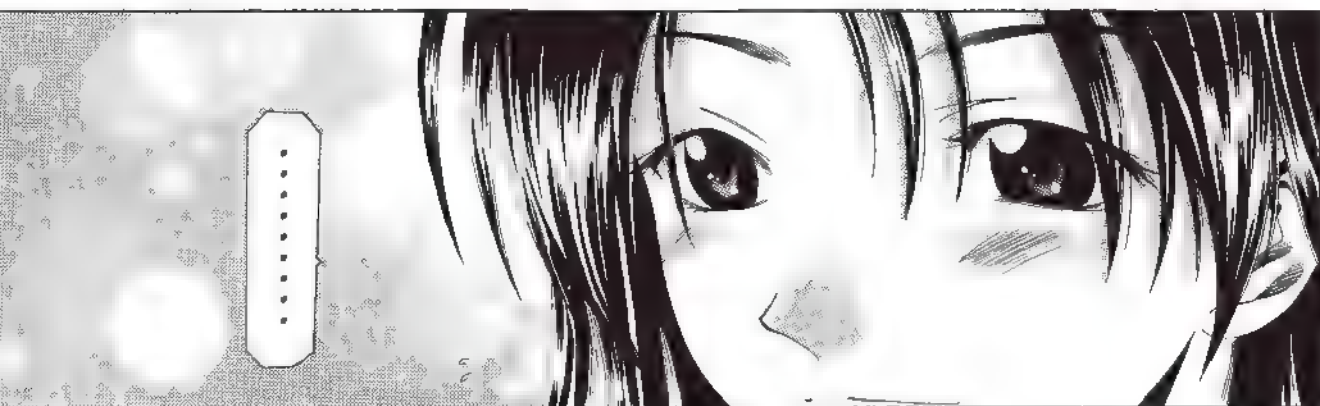
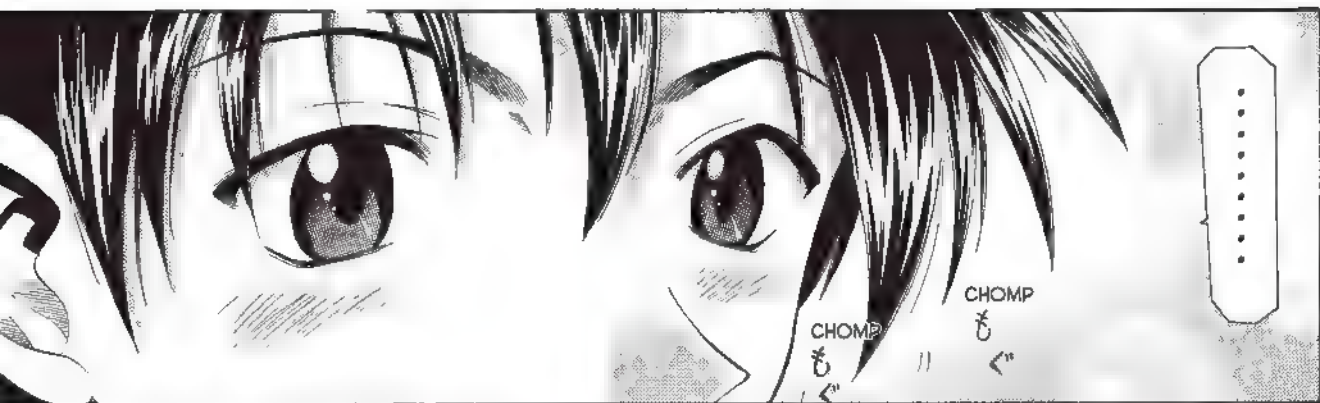
HERE
GOES
MY LAST
BITE.

I
KINDA
WOLFED
IT
DOWN.

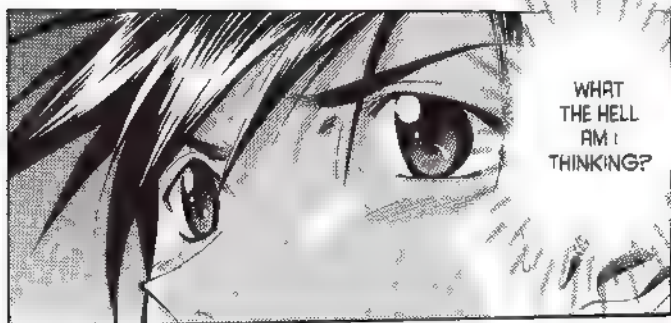
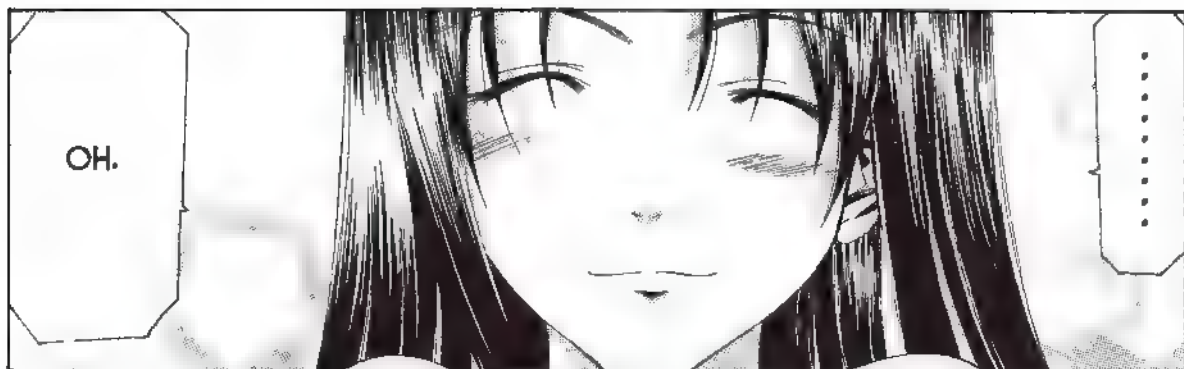


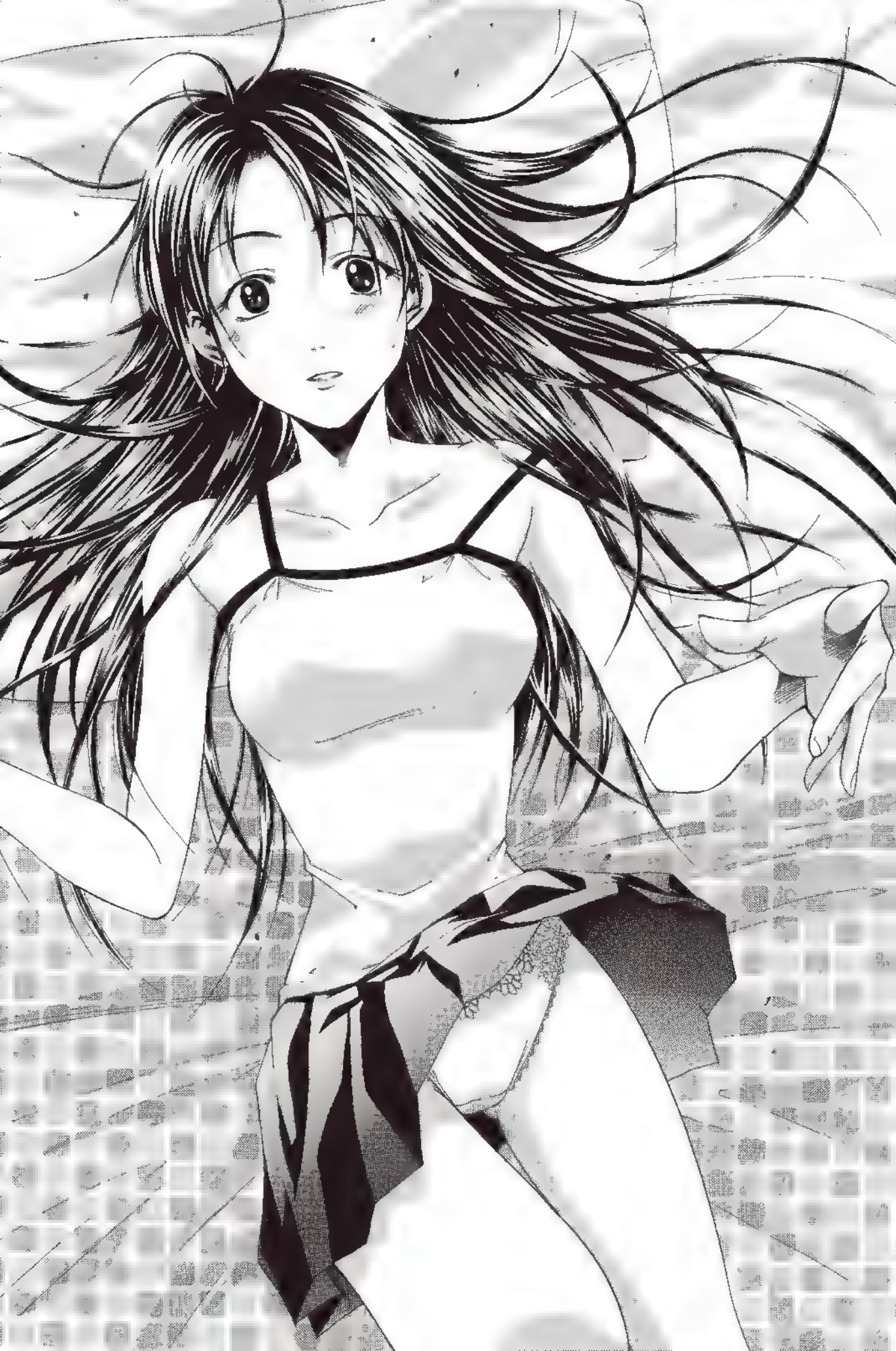
HOW
IS
IT?

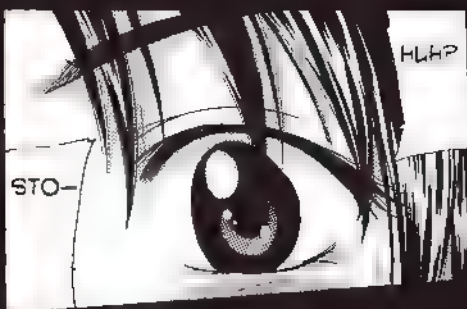


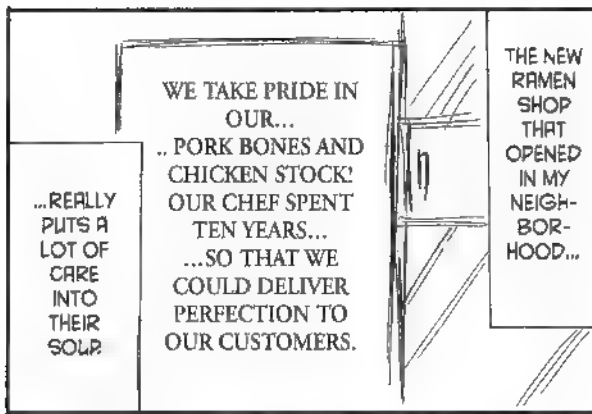




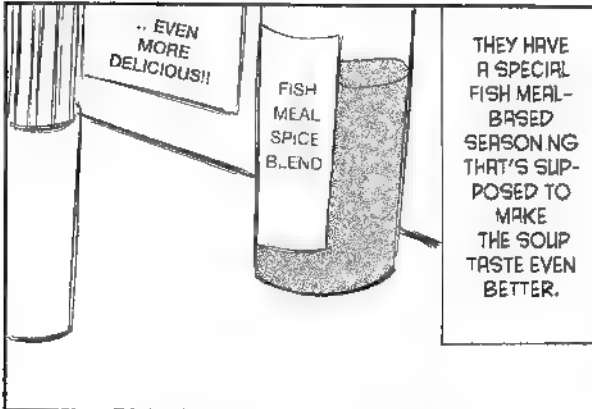


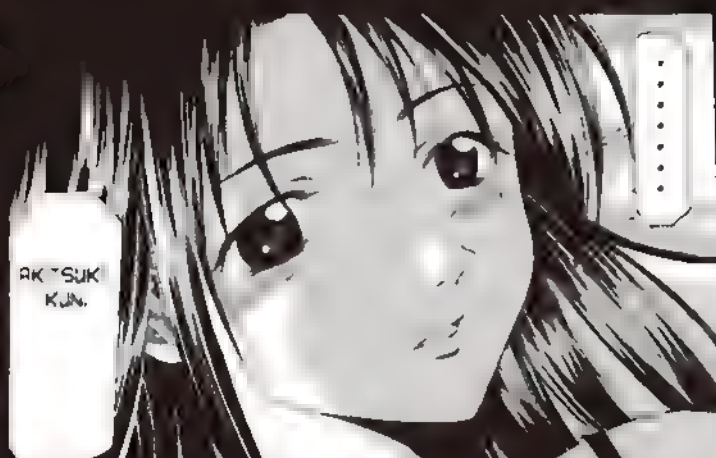






SUZUKA
FOUR-PANEL THEATER
NUMBER TWENTY-SIX
THE SOUP CONNOISSEUR



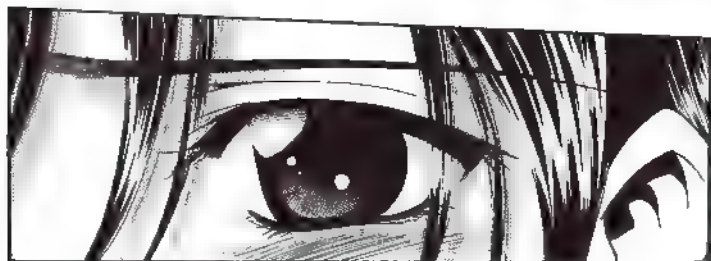


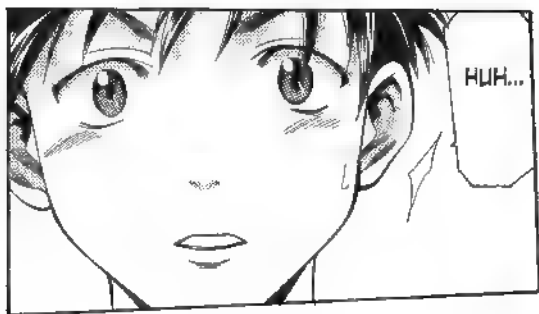
...GOING
OUT WITH
HONOKA-
CHAN
NOW.

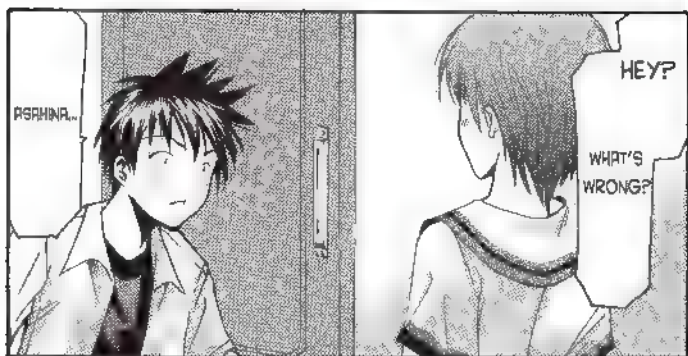
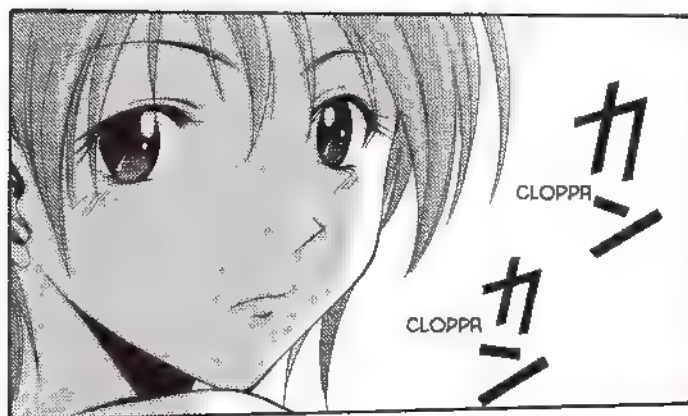


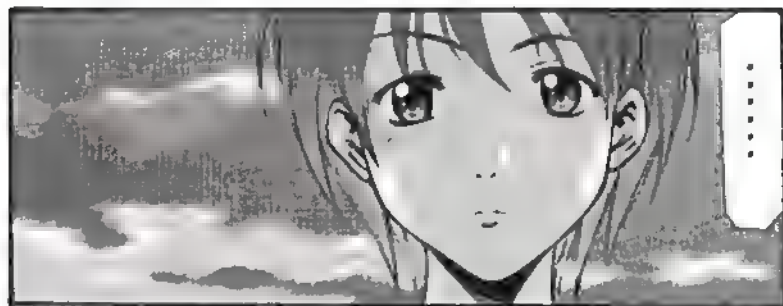
SUZUKA

#44
REGRET



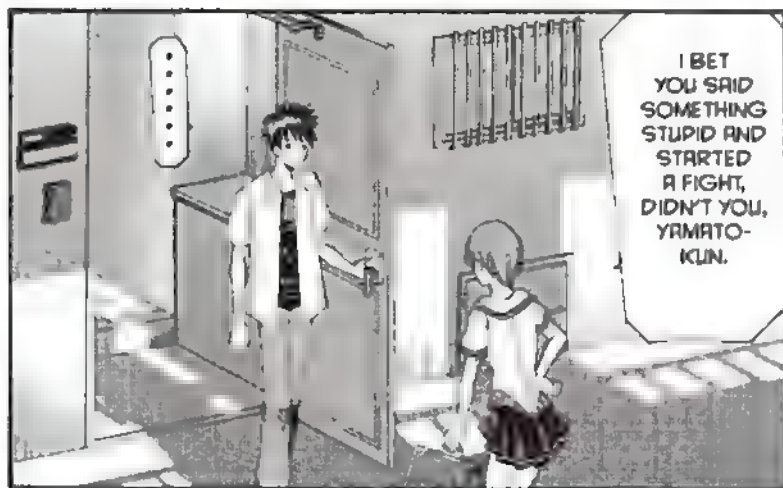




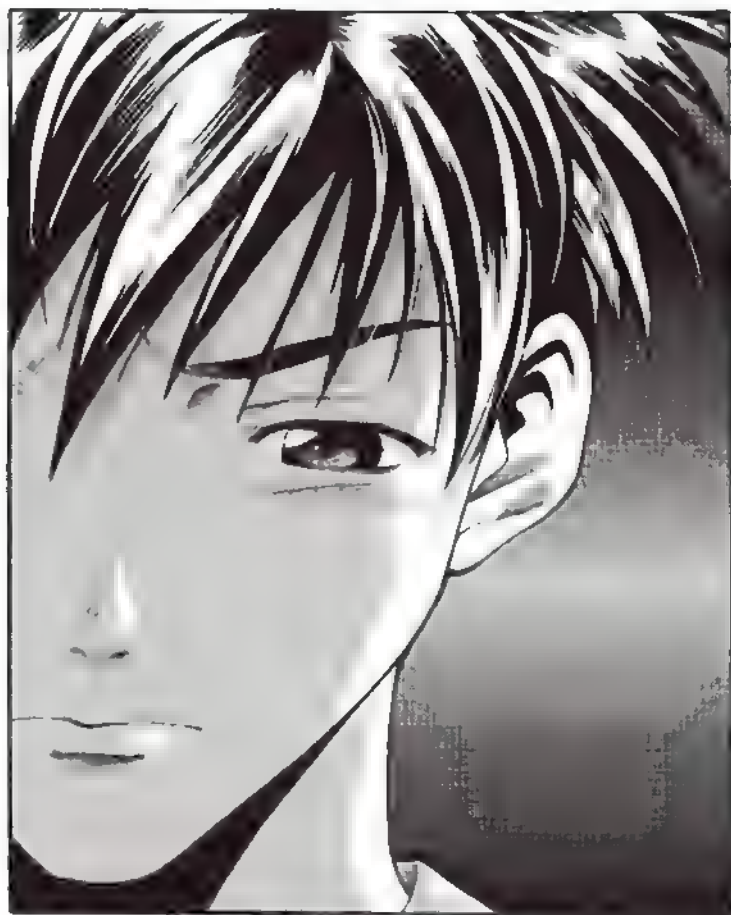


IT'S...

...NOTHING.



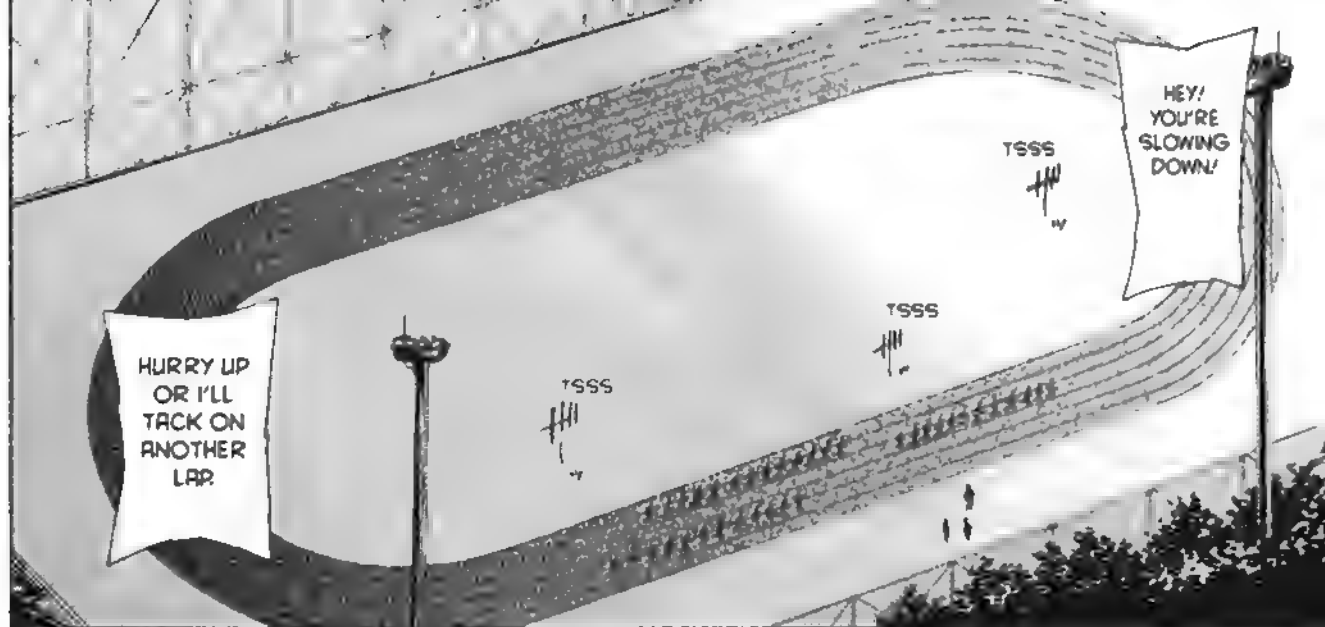
I BET YOU SAID SOMETHING STUPID AND STARTED A FIGHT, DIDN'T YOU, YAMATO-KUN.



YOU DON'T HAVE AN OUNCE OF TACT, YAMATO-KUN.

YOU ALWAYS SCREW EVERYTHING UP.

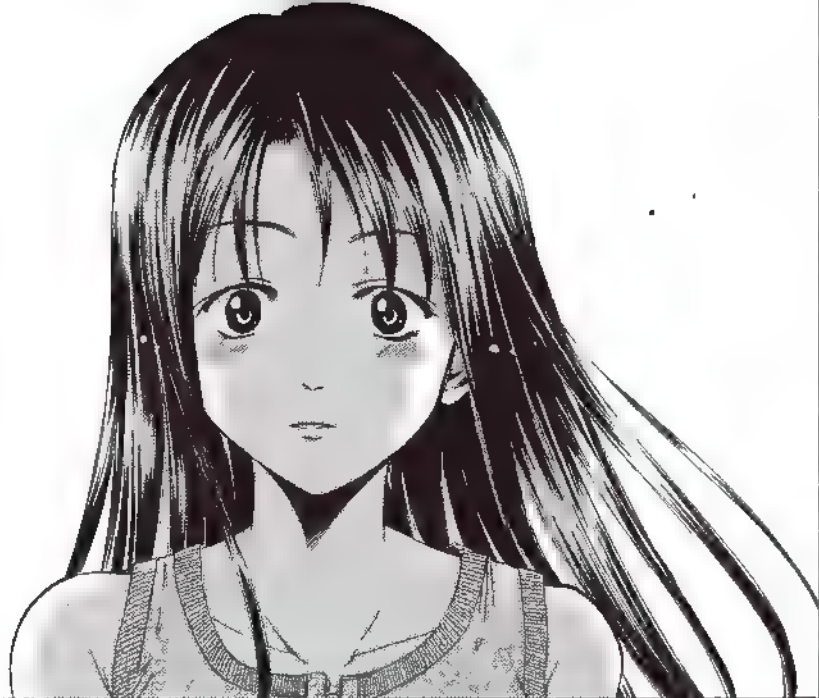




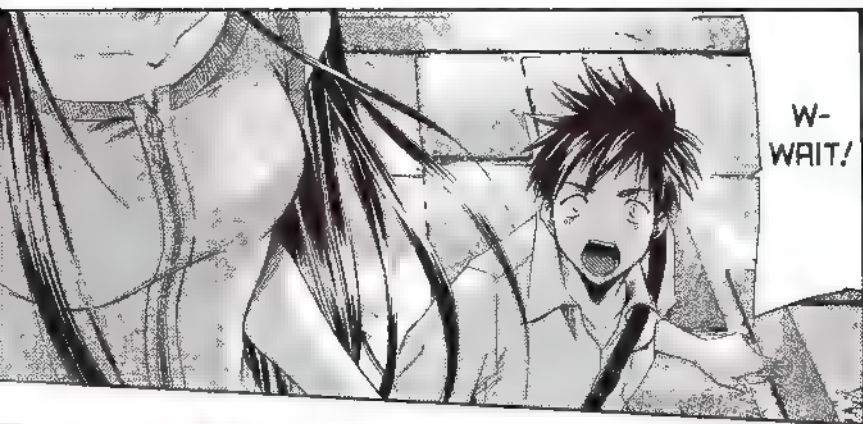




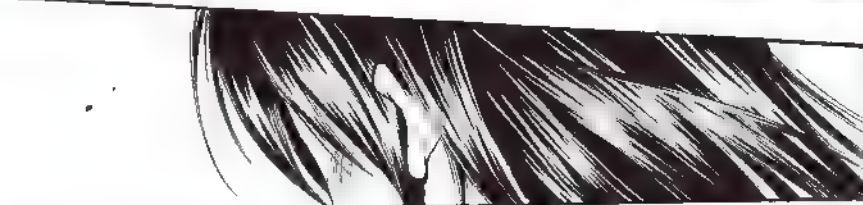
AH...



W-
WAIT!



FWOOSH



I'M
REALLY
SORRY
ABOUT
YESTERDAY.

I KNOW
YOU
DON'T
WANT TO
SEE ME,
BUT...



AH...!



TH-

THAT'S
NOT
TRUE!

I JUST...
WASN'T
SURE
HOW TO
ACT...WHEN
I SAW
YOU
AGAIN.

BUT
AFTER
WHAT
HAD-
PENED
YESTER-
DAY...

ト
I'D...

...NEVER
DONE
ANYTHING
LIKE
THAT
BEFORE.

I
DON'T
HATE
YOU OR
ANYTHING,
AKITSUKI-
KUN.

H L H ?

HONOKA-
CHAN...

.....

...HATE
ME...
DON'T
YOU?

YOU
PROB-
ABLY...

HUH?

O-OF
COURSE
NOT!

MEAN, I'M
THE ONE
WHO
SCREWED
UP.

IT
WAS LIKE
I WAS TRYING
TO FORCE
YOU OR SOME-
THING...

A-
AND...

UM....

WHY
WOULD
I
HATE
YOU?



HUH?

I'M
SO
HAPPY.

YOU
DON'T
LOOK
SCARY
ANYMORE.
YOU HAVE
THAT USUAL
AKITSUKI-
KUN
LOOK ON
YOUR FACE.

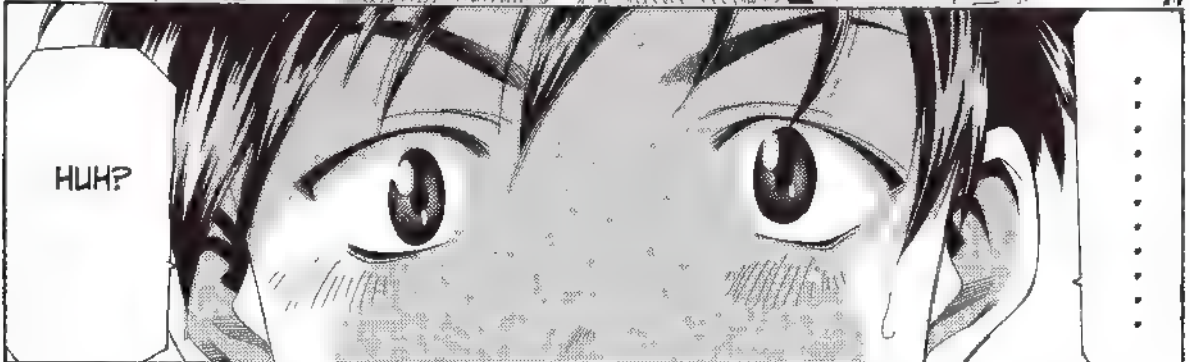


STEP



AS
LONG
AS YOU
STAY
LIKE
THIS...

...I
WOULDN'T
MIND
IF YOU
THREW ME
TO THE
GROUND,
AND...



HUH?

.....



I-I
KNOW.
IT'S
OKAY.
IT'S
OKAY. I
GET IT.

AH!

N-N-NO!
I-I
DON'T
MEAN
RIGHT
NOW...I
JUST...
UM...



カ
ア
ア
ア
BLUSH



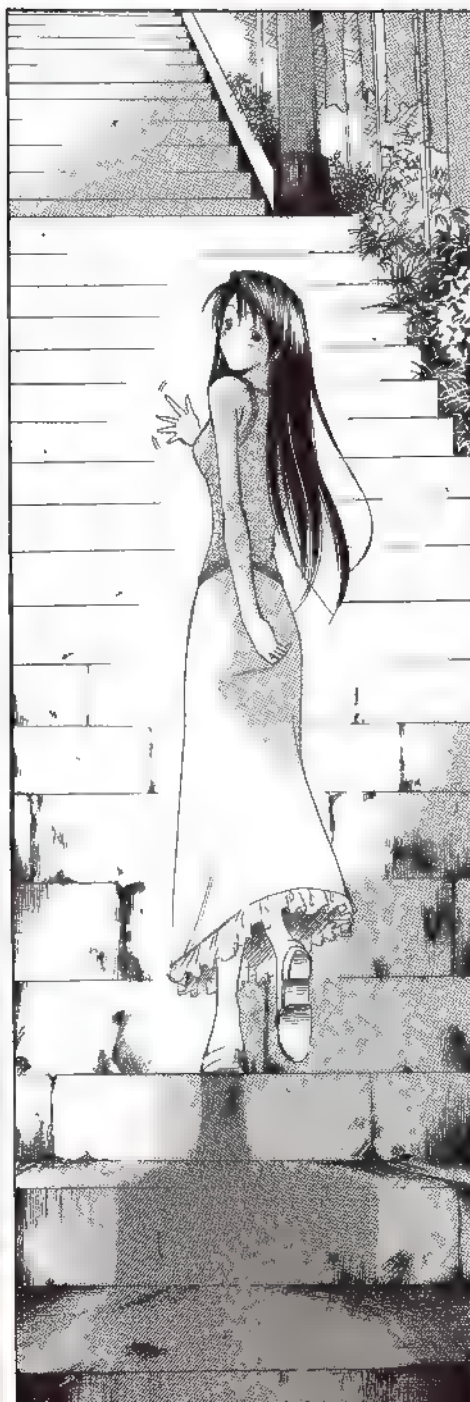
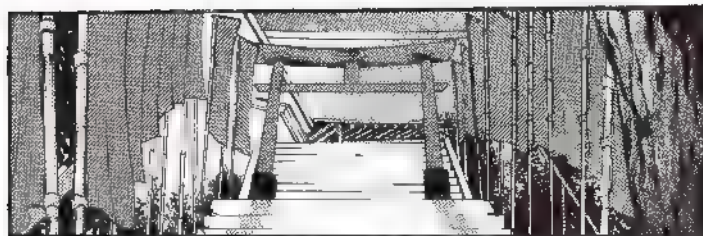
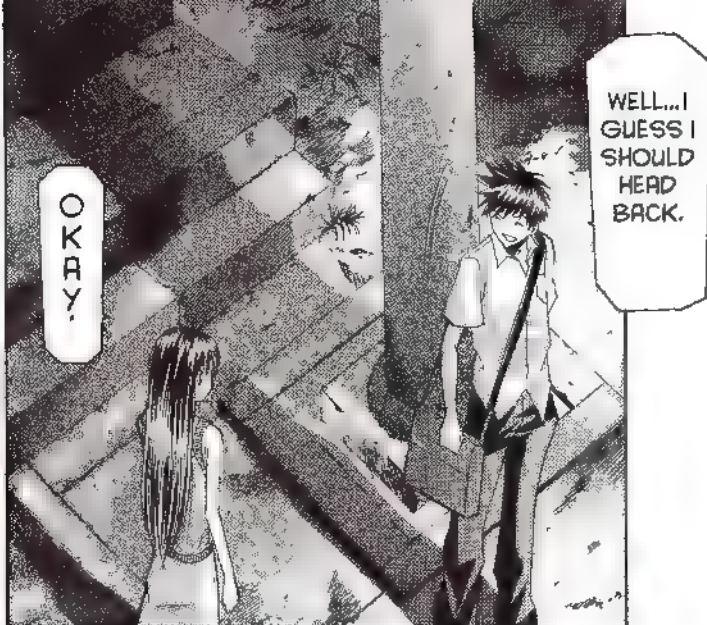
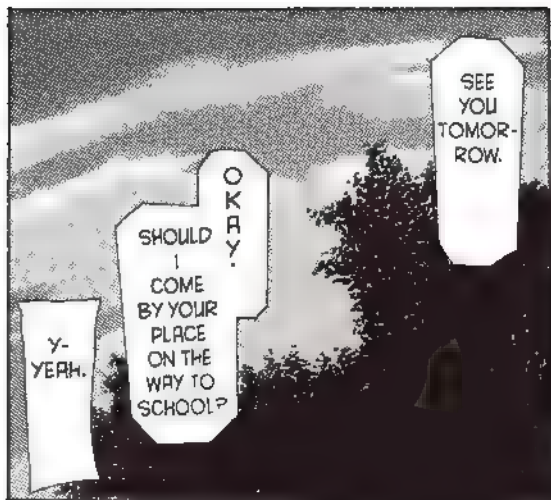
UM...



SURE.

DO YOU
THINK
MAYBE YOU
COULD
MAKE
DINNER
FOR ME
AGAIN
SOME
TIME...?

W-
WELL...









WHAT
AM
I...

...DO-ZUN...





**SUZUKA
FOUR-PANEL THEATER
NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN
A FORGETFUL LIFE**



SUZUKA



#45

FALL RAIN



BUT YOU
STILL
HAVEN'T
DONE IT
WITH HER?

HMM...
SO
YOU
MADE
UP
WITH
SAKURAI...



I
DON'T
CARE.
IT'S NOT
LIKE I'M
IN A
HURRY OR
ANYTHING.

SHUT
UP.



...AND
TOTALLY
MAKE HER
WANT IT.
IT'S ALL
ABOUT
THE
SKILLS,
MAN.

A
REALLY
SLICK
GUY
CAN SET
UP THE
PERFECT
MOOD...

ALL
RIGHT,
LISTEN
UP WITH
GIRLS
IT'S ALL
ABOUT
THE
MOOD.

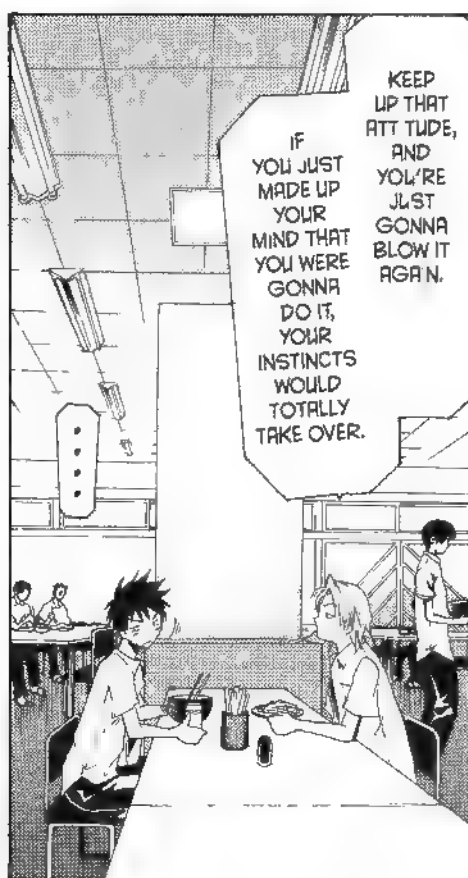


I
DON'T
NEED
YOUR
FUCKING
HELP!

JUST
LEAVE
ME
ALONE.

SHUT UP
AND
LISTEN!
I'M
TRYING
TO HELP
YOU!

I
TOLD
YOU I
DON'T
CARE
ABOUT
THAT
CRAP..



KEEP
UP THAT
ATTITUDE,
AND
YOU'RE
JUST
GONNA
BLOW IT
AGAIN.

IF
YOU JUST
MADE UP
YOUR
MIND THAT
YOU WERE
GONNA
DO IT,
YOUR
INSTINCTS
WOULD
TOTALLY
TAKE OVER.



HUH?

ALL
YOU
GUYS
DO IS
ARGUE.



HUH?
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT?

YEAH,
MAYBE
YOU CAN
MAKE HIM
UNDER-
STAND,
HASHIBA.

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
CAN I
JOIN IN?



HUH?

FLAPPA II

FLAPPA

IV

Q

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

W

HE WANTED
TO SCREW
SAKURAI,
SO HE
JUMPED
HER, BUT-

WRAHHH!
SHUT
UP,
YOU
IDIOT!





YOU'RE
A CHICK...
WHEN
YOU'RE
GETTING
READY TO
DO IT,
IT'S ALL
ABOUT
THE
MOOD,
RIGHT?

LIKE
SOMETIMES
YOU
HAVE TO
SWITCH
THINGS UP,
RIGHT...
DO IT
IN A NEW
LOCAT ON
OR
SOMETH NG.



I
CAN
SET THE
MOOD
JUST FINE
AS LONG
AS YOU'RE
NOT
INVOLVED.

WHAT
THE HELL
WOULD
A
PERVERT
LIKE YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
SETTING
THE
MOOD?



JUST
LEAVE
ME
ALONE.



THIS
CONVER-
SATION
ISN'T
OVER,
YAMATO!

LET'S
MOVE
OVER
THERE,
AK TSUK./
I DON'T
WANT HIS
STUPIDITY
RUBBING
OFF ON US.



WAH,
QUIT
IT,
YOU
IDIOT!

WHAT
THE
HELL
DID
HE
EXPECT?



GYM

ALL
RIGHT,
THAT'S
IT FOR
TODAY!



HEH,
IT'S
GETTING
A LOT
EASIER.

NICE
WORK
TODAY,
AKITSU-
KI-KUN.

CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU CAN
BENCH
THAT
MUCH.



AHH!

CLANK



SHIVER

YEAH...
THAT
DID
LOOK
PRETTY
EASY.



WHAT?
NO WAY!
WHY AM
I THE
ONLY
ONE
WHO HAS
TO—

OKAY!
THREE
MORE
SETS FOR
YOU.



HE'S
BACK
AGAIN?
DIDN'T
HE
GRADUATE?

WELL,
IF YOU'RE
GONNA BE
A SHORT
DISTANCE
RUNNER,
WE'RE
GONNA HAVE
TO BUILD
UP THESE
MUSCLES A
LITTLE MORE.

£
2
SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

£
2



GYAAAA,
OKAY,
I'LL DO
IT! I'LL
DO IT!

SLAP

SLAP

SCRUNCH

SCRUNCH

HUH?

WHAT
WAS
THAT?



UH,
AKITSUKI-
KUN... I
HAVE
PLANS,
SO CAN'T
REALLY
WAIT FOR—

AH,
THAT'S
OKAY.
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT. GO
AHEAD.

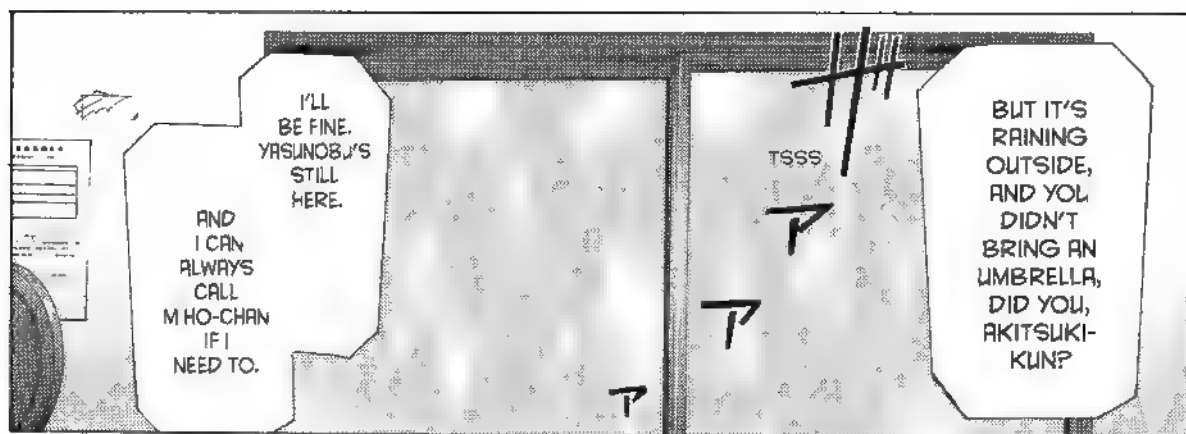


DON'T
EVEN
THINK
ABOUT
SLACKING
OFF.

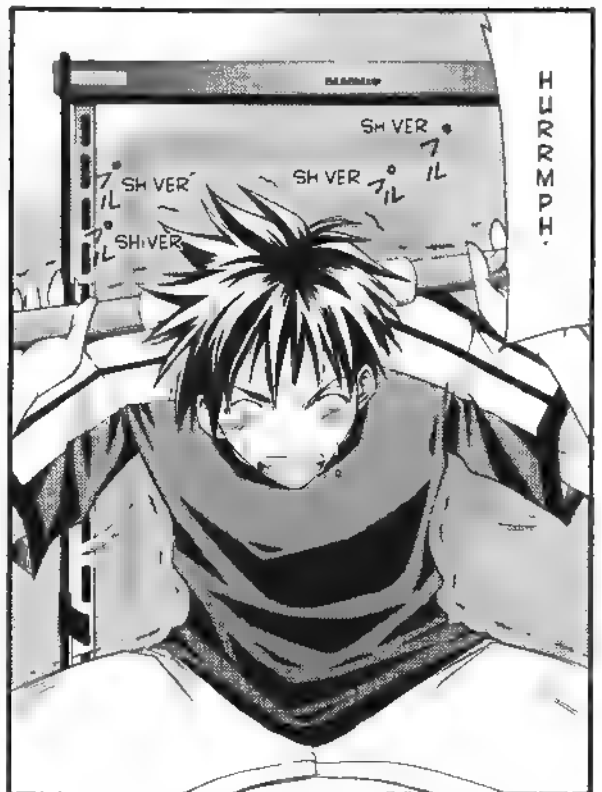
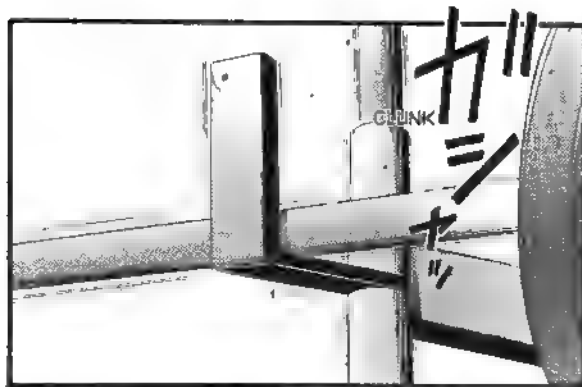
I'LL
BE
SPYING
ON
YOU.

UH...

THEN
WHY
DON'T
YOU
JUST
STAY
HERE?







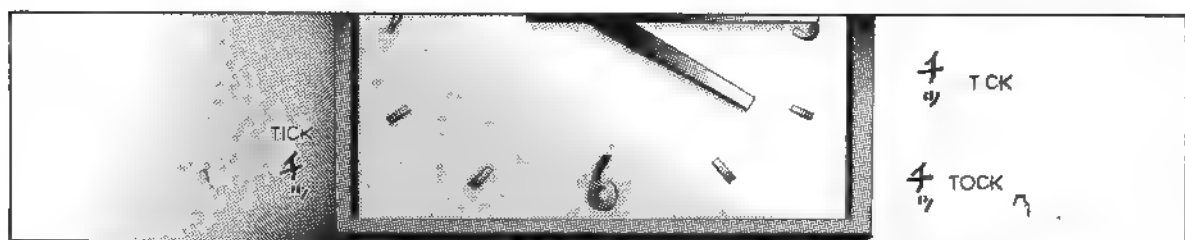


IT'S
EVEN
HARDER
WITH HIM
WATCHING...

YEAH,
YEAH...

GLANCE

DON'T
SLACK.



TICK

TICK

TOCK



WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
YOU,
SUZUKA?

CLOP

CLOP

IT'S
WEIRD.
I SWEAR
I LOOKED
IN MY
BAG,
BUT...



NOW
COME
ON,
LET'S
GO.

WELL, I
GUESS
I'LL
FORGIVE
YOU.



NOW
WHAT?

AH.



YOU RAN
AROUND
EVERY-
WHERE
LOOKING
FOR
YOUR
PHONE...

...AND ALL
THIS TIME
IT WAS
RIGHT
THERE
IN YOUR
BAG?





HUH?



PHEW,
ALL
DONE!



OH
YEAH...
IT'S
RAINING,
ISN'T
IT?



AH...

F.WICK

110
F.WICK

YASUNO-
BU'S
PROBABLY
HOME
ALREADY.

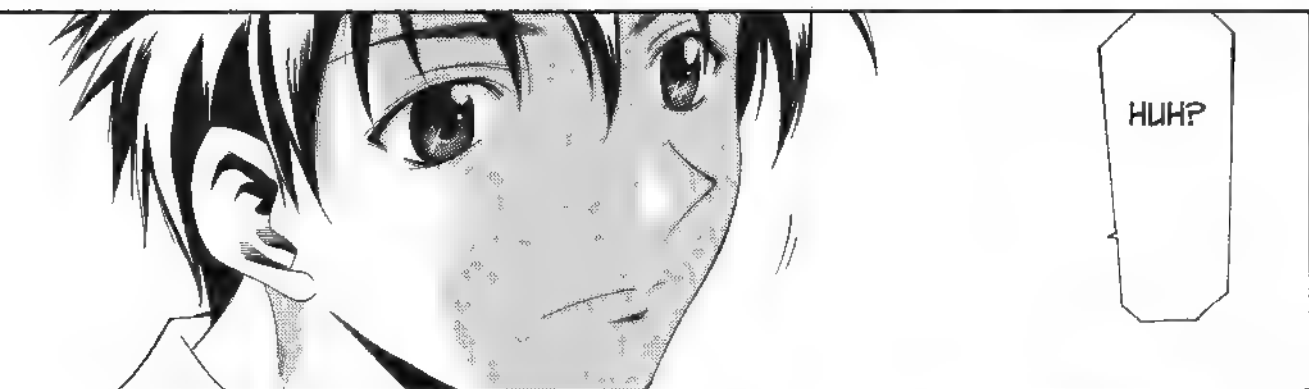
GUESS
I'LL
HAVE TO
CALL
MIHO-CHAN.



YOU
GUYS
ARE
STILL
HERE?

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?

OH, I
WAS
JUST
HEADING
HOME.





YOU
CAN
BORROW
IT.



WHAT'RE
YOU
GONNA-?

UH...
BUT...



O-
OKAY.



HUH?

I'LL BE
OKAY.
ME AND
MIKI ARE
GOING
SOME-
WHERE,
SO...

I'LL
JUST
SHARE
HERS.



A black and white manga-style illustration of two young women in school uniforms standing in a hallway. The woman on the left is shorter with short dark hair, wearing a sailor-style uniform with a pleated skirt, and is pulling a suitcase. The woman on the right is taller with long hair in a high ponytail, also in a similar uniform. They are both looking towards the viewer. To their left is a long row of lockers. Two speech bubbles are present: one on the left containing the text "...WITH AKITSUKI?" and one on the right containing the text "...IN LOVE...".

...IN
LOVE...

...WITH
AKITSUKI?



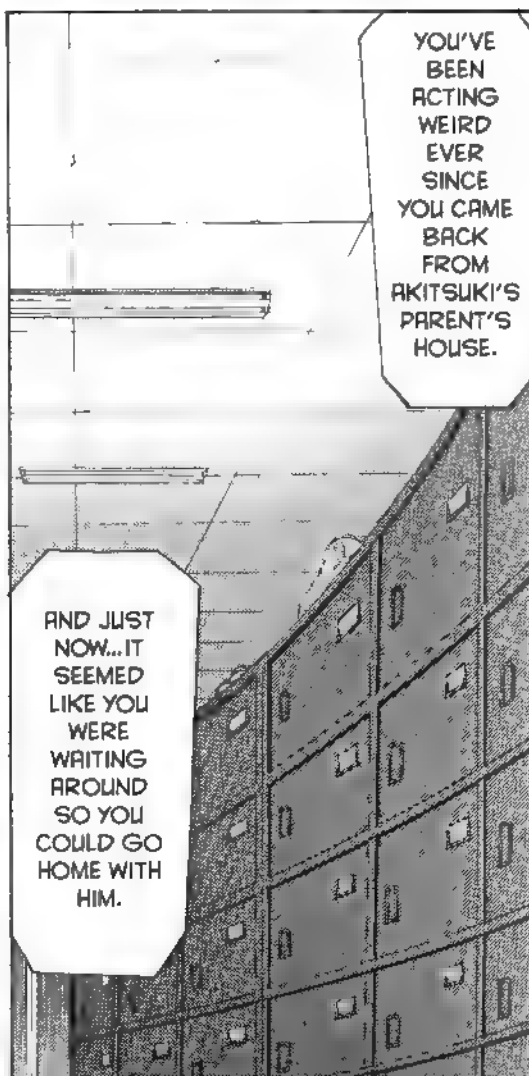
BE-
CAUSE...

WHY
WOULD
YOU SAY
THAT?



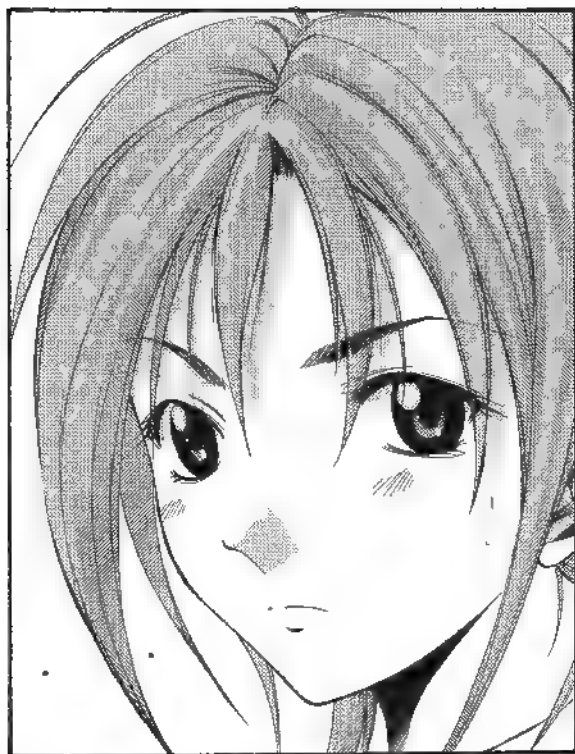
HUH?

I
WAS
NOT...



YOU'VE
BEEN
ACTING
WEIRD
EVER
SINCE
YOU CAME
BACK
FROM
AKITSUKI'S
PARENT'S
HOUSE.

AND JUST
NOW...IT
SEEMED
LIKE YOU
WERE
WAITING
AROUND
SO YOU
COULD GO
HOME WITH
HIM.



I
DON'T...



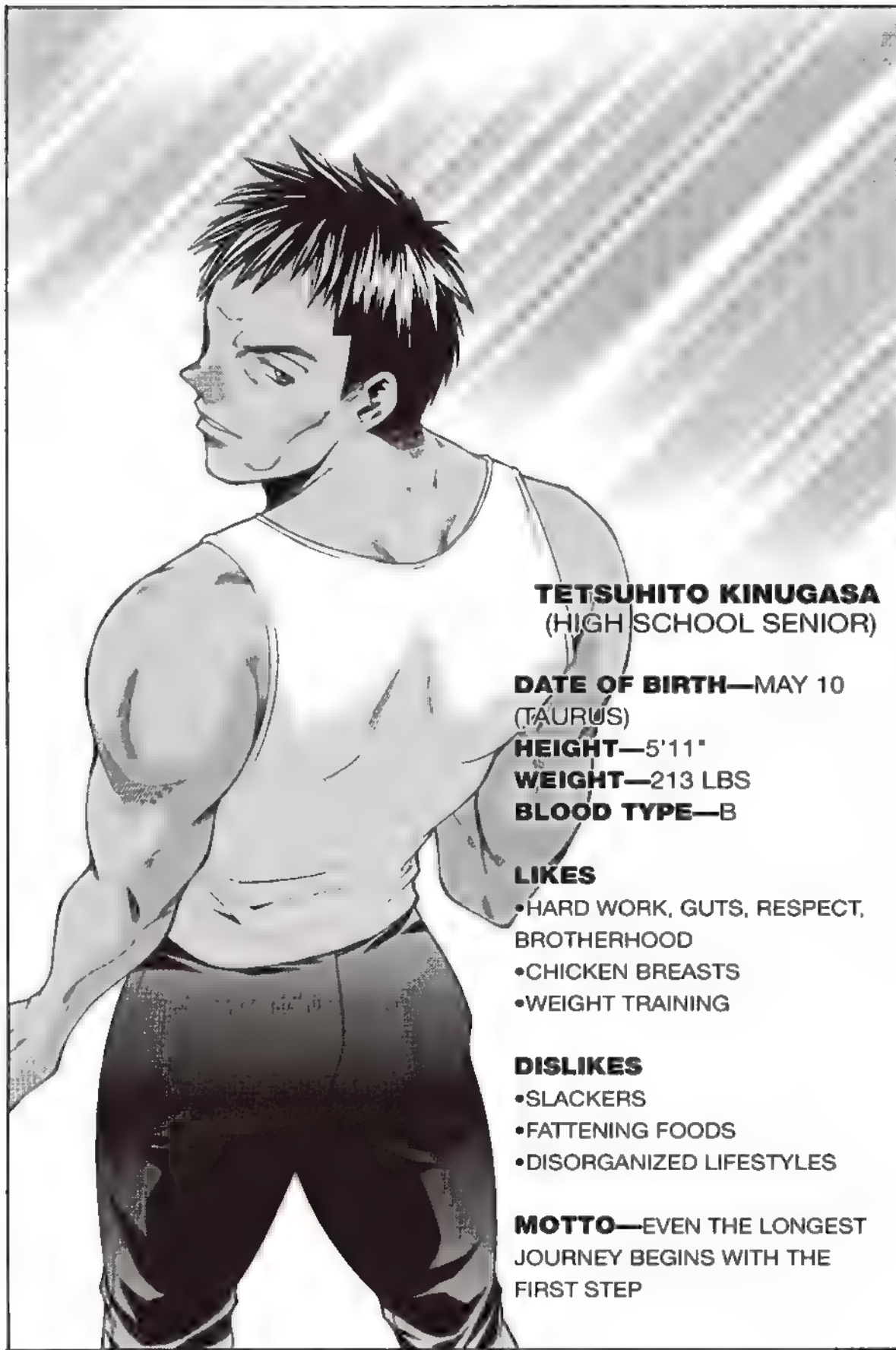
OH...
WELL,
OKAY
THEN.



...HAVE ANY
FEELINGS
FOR
YAMATO-KUN
WHATSOEVER!



CHARACTER PROFILE NO. 13



TETSUHITO KINUGASA
(HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR)

DATE OF BIRTH—MAY 10
(TAURUS)

HEIGHT—5'11"

WEIGHT—213 LBS

BLOOD TYPE—B

LIKES

- HARD WORK, GUTS, RESPECT, BROTHERHOOD
- CHICKEN BREASTS
- WEIGHT TRAINING

DISLIKES

- SLACKERS
- FATTENING FOODS
- DISORGANIZED LIFESTYLES

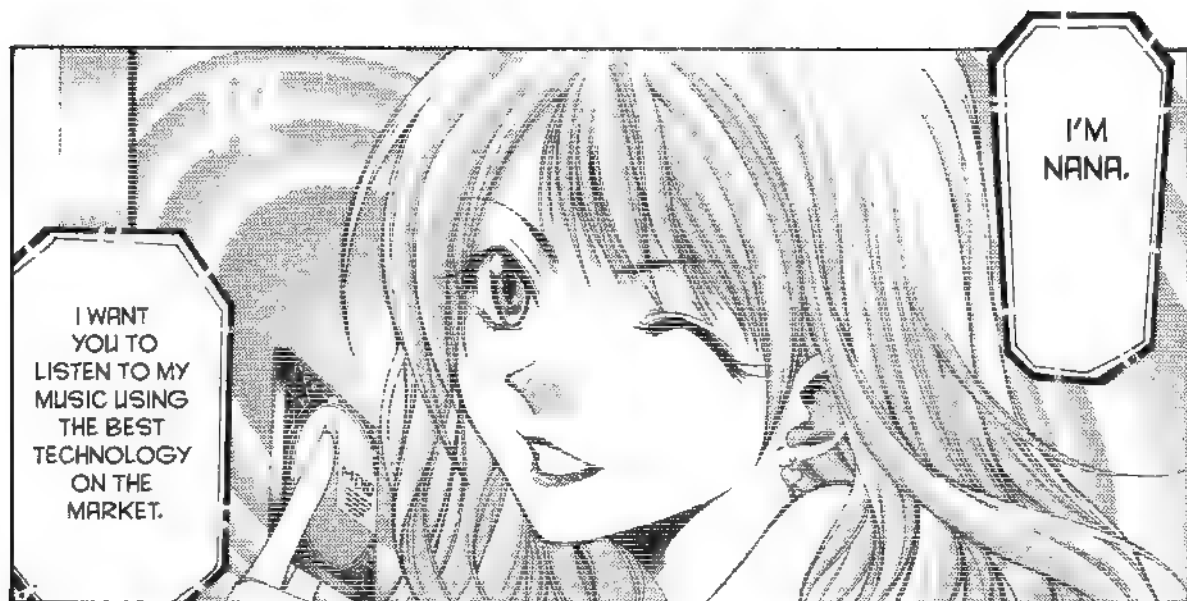
MOTTO—EVEN THE LONGEST JOURNEY BEGINS WITH THE FIRST STEP

#46

SHIRAKAWA



SUZUKA



I'M
NANA.

I WANT
YOU TO
LISTEN TO MY
MUSIC USING
THE BEST
TECHNOLOGY
ON THE
MARKET.

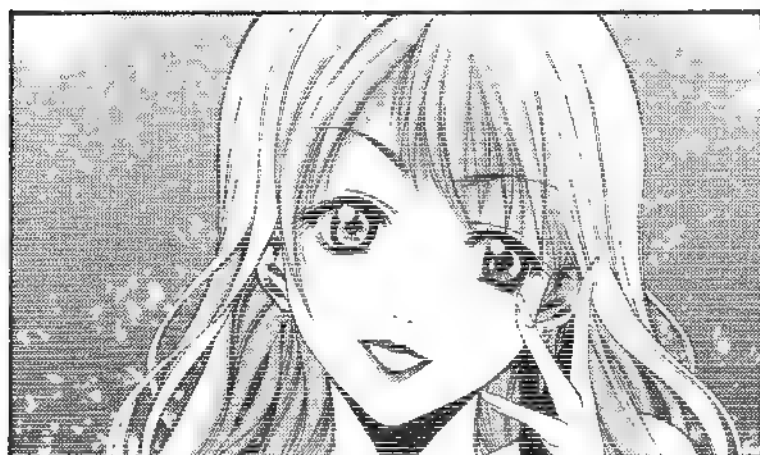


SORRY
FOR
MAKING
YOU COME
SHOPPING
WITH ME.

THAT'S
OKAY.
THERE'S
SOME
STUFF I
NEEDED
TO GET
ANYWAY.

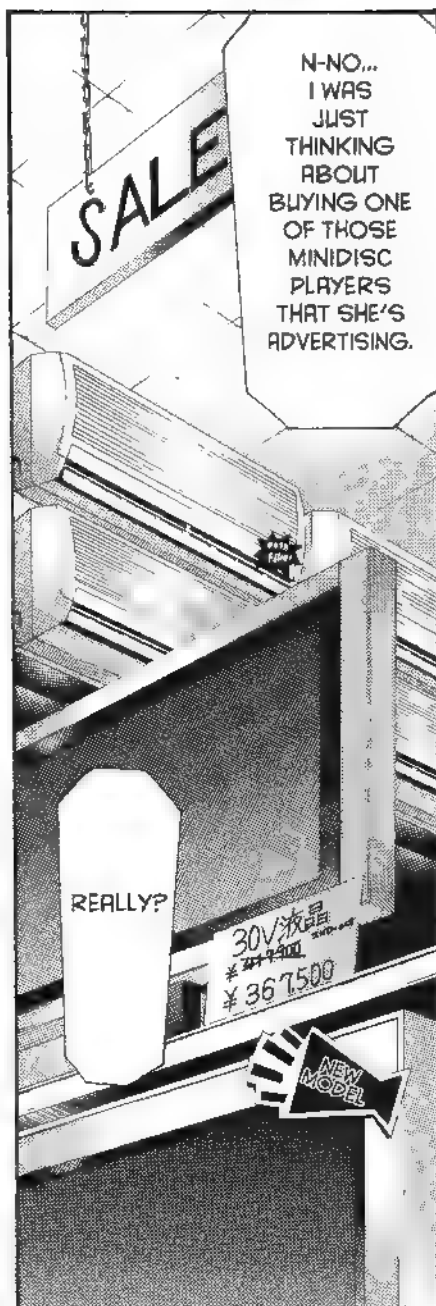
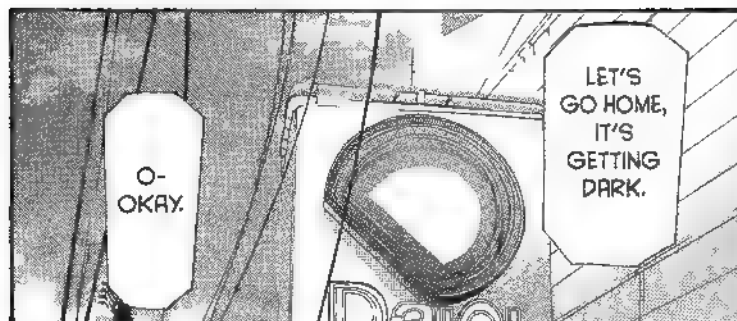
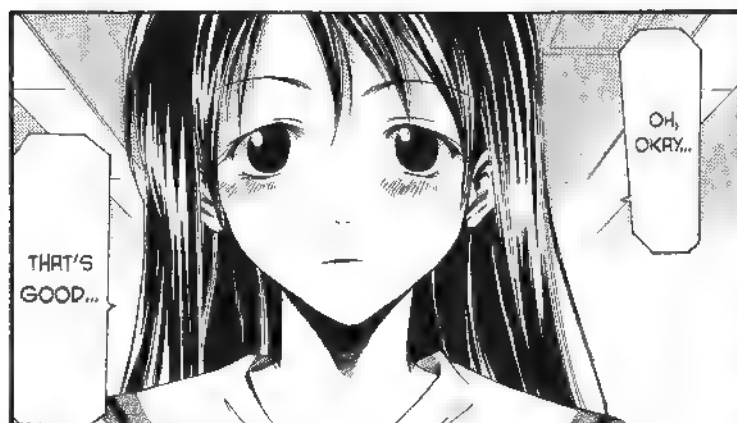


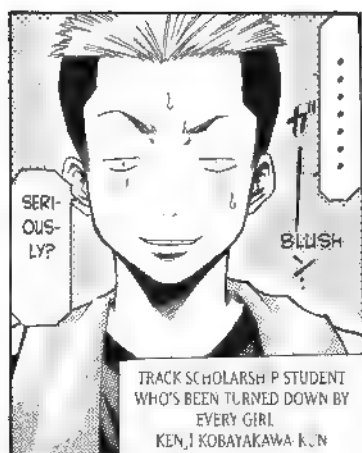
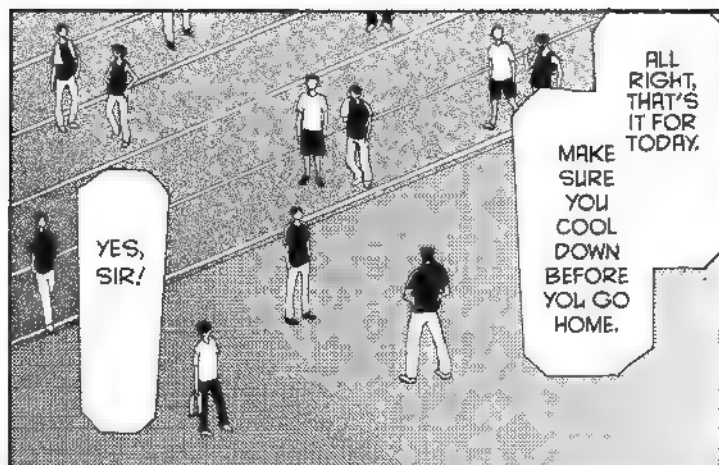
FALL
CLASSICS

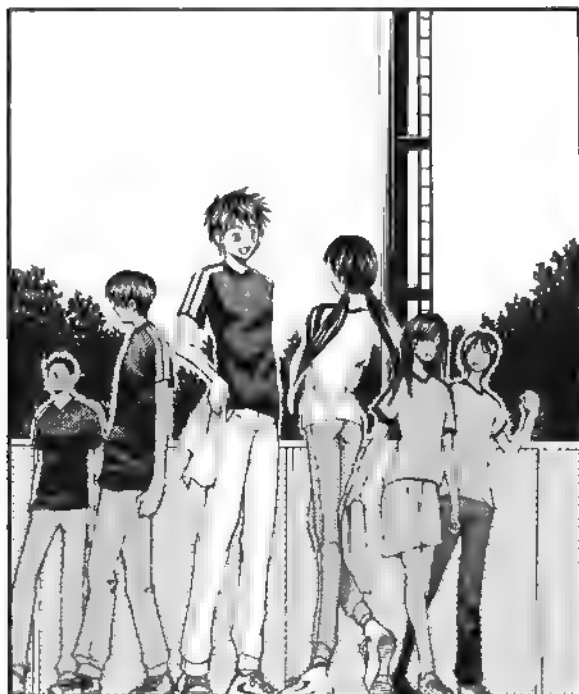


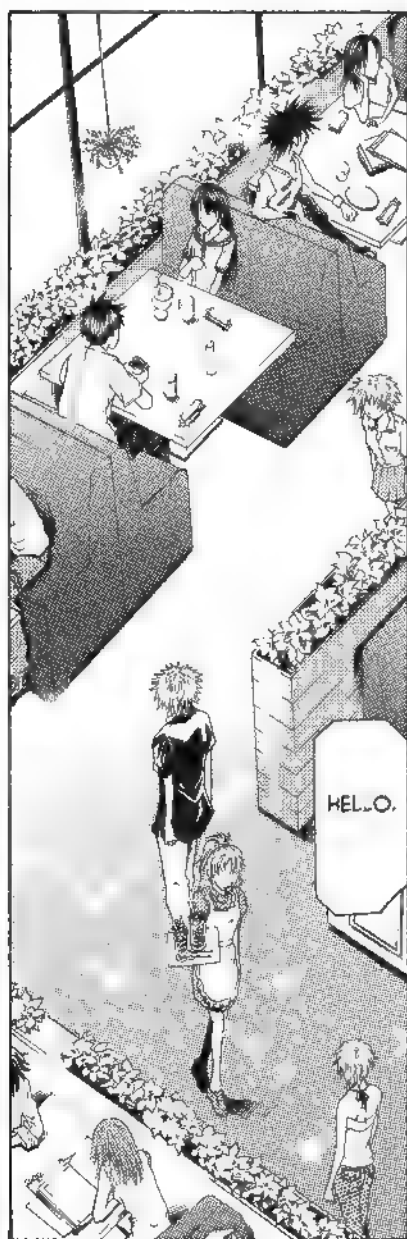
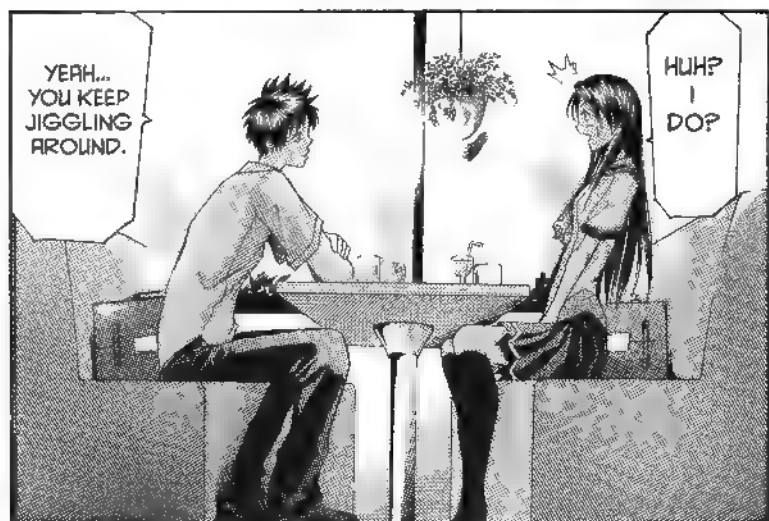
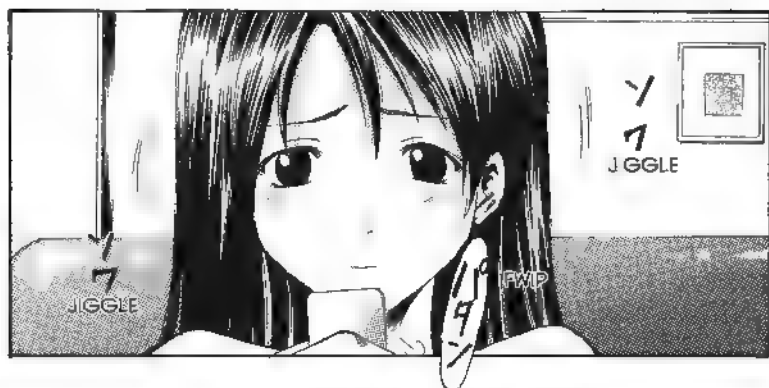
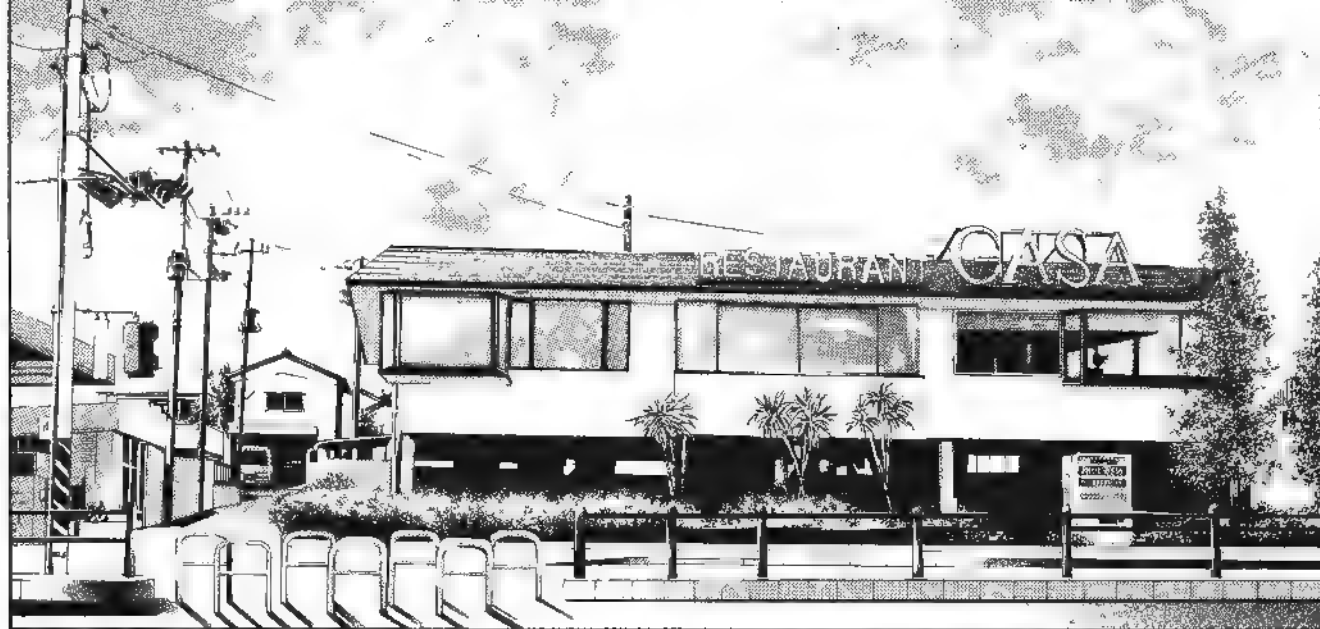
YEAH.

I
WANT
ONE,
BUT
IT'S WAY
TOO
EXPENSIVE.









I'VE GOT
THIS FRIEND
FROM
JUNIOR HIGH
WHO
REALLY
WANTS TO
MEET YOU.

WELL,
ACTUALLY...

I
TEXTED HER,
AND TOLD
HER YOU
FINISHED
PRACTICE
EARLY, AND
SHE SAID
SHE'D COME
BY.

HUH?
ME?

AH,
THERE
SHE
IS!

BUT
I'M NOT
REALLY
DRESSED
UP OR
ANYTHING.

NO,
IT'S
NO
BIG
DEAL.

OH, SO
THAT'S
WHY YOU
SEEM SO
NERVOUS.

I'M
SORRY,
I KNOW
IT'S NOT
FAIR OF
ME TO
SPRING
THIS ON
YOU.

HUH?

AH!



HUH?

WH-
WHA--?



SHOULDN'T
YOU BE
WEARING
A
DISGUISE
OR
SOMETHING,
NANA-CHAN?

FORGET
THAT.
IT'S TOO
MUCH
OF A
PAIN.

SO
THAT'S
YOUR
BOY-
FRIEND,
HONOKA?

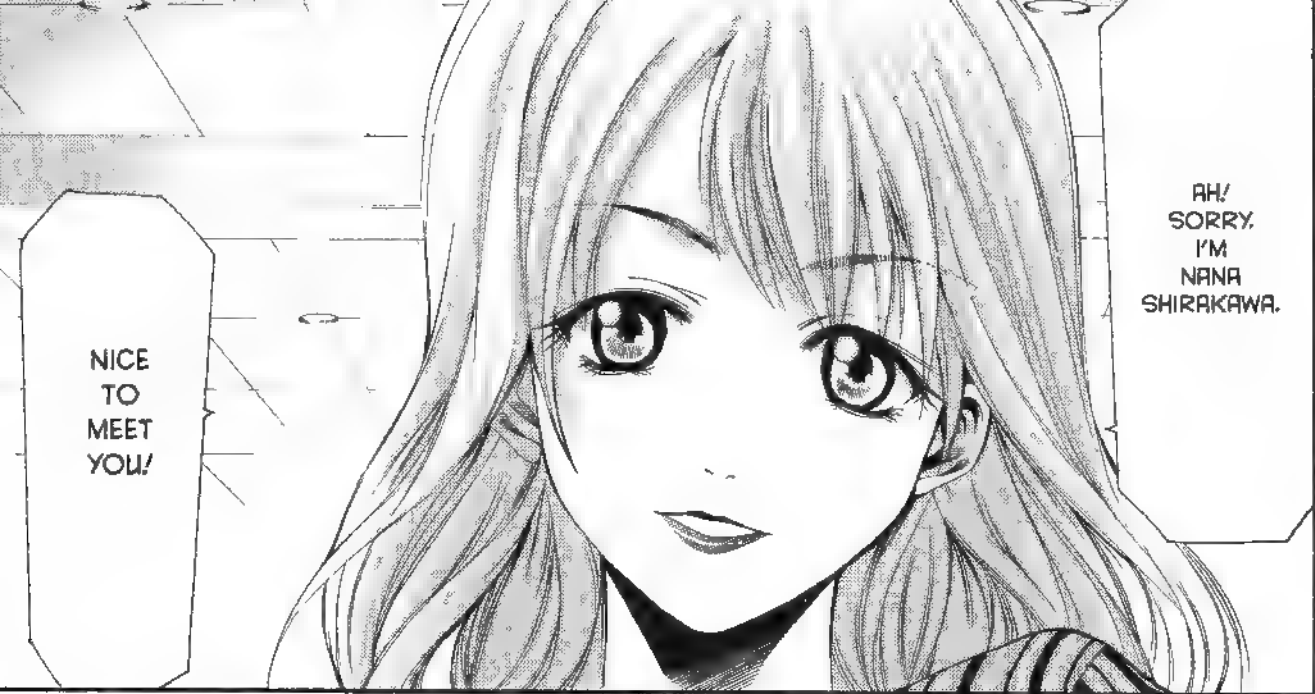


YOU'RE
FRIENDS
WITH...



SORRY
I'M
LATE!

I HAD
TO
SNEAK
OUT OF
WORK.



NICE
TO
MEET
YOU!

AH/
SORRY,
I'M
NANA
SHIRAKAWA.



I WANT
YOU TO
LISTEN TO MY
MUSIC USING
THE BEST
TECHNOLOGY
ON THE
MARKET.



UH....
YEAH,
WELL...

SORRY,
I GUESS
THIS IS
A
LITTLE TOO
SHOCKING
FOR YOU.



UH...I
WATCH
ALL YOUR
TV
DRAMAS.

N-NICE
TO
MEET
YOU!

I-I'M
A
FAN!



N-NO,
DON'T
MIND
GOING.

AH...
BUT
AKITSUK
KUN
HAS
TO...

WE CAN'T
REALLY
RELAX AND
TALK HERE.
LET'S GO
DO
KARAOKE.

I'VE
NEVER
BEEN
ON A TV
DRAMA.



THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE BEST FRIENDS.

Y-YEAH.

SO YOU GUYS WERE FRIENDS ALL THROUGH JUNIOR HIGH?

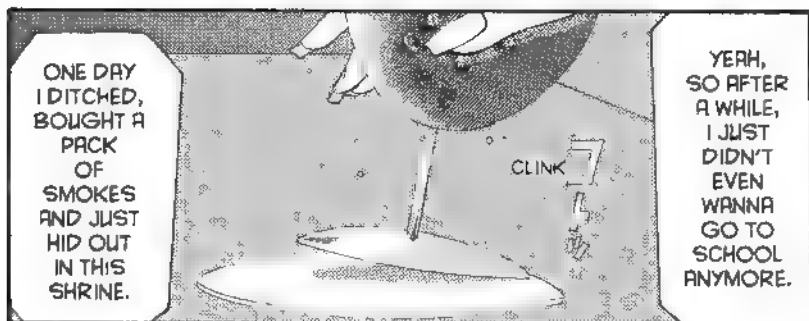


WOW.



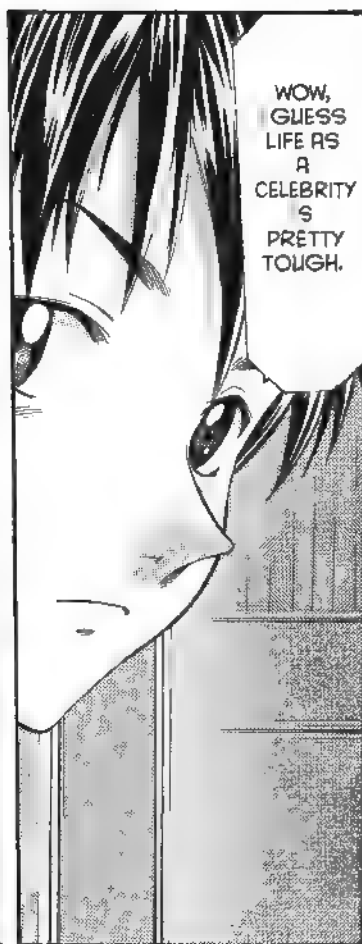
AND MOST OF THE KIDS AT SCHOOL WOULDN'T EVEN TALK TO ME.

I WAS JUST STARTING TO GET POPULAR IN JUNIOR HIGH...



ONE DAY I DITCHED, BOUGHT A PACK OF SMOKES AND JUST HID OUT IN THIS SHRINE.

YEAH, SO AFTER A WHILE, I JUST DIDN'T EVEN WANNA GO TO SCHOOL ANYMORE.



WOW, GUESS LIFE AS A CELEBRITY'S PRETTY TOUGH.



YOU'RE WEARING MY SCHOOL'S UNIFORM

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?



HEY, YOU SHOULDN'T SMOKE!

THEN THIS GIRL WORKING AT THE SHRINE CAME UP TO ME.

HUH? LEAVE ME ALONE.



AT THAT
MOMENT,
I FELT A
LITTLE
BLOW TO
MY PRIDE,
BUT...

WH-
WHAT'S
WITH THAT
GETUP?
YOU INTO
COSPLAY
OR
SOMETHING?



THAT'S
WHY
I'M
ASKING

HUH?
YOU
DON'T
KNOW
ME?



IT WAS THE
FIRST TIME
THAT ANYBODY
HAD EVER
TREATED ME
LIKE A
NORMAL
PERSON.

NO!

HUH?
IT'S NOT
COSPLAY.
HOW
RUDE.

WOULD
YOU JUST
PUT THAT
CIGARETTE
OUT?



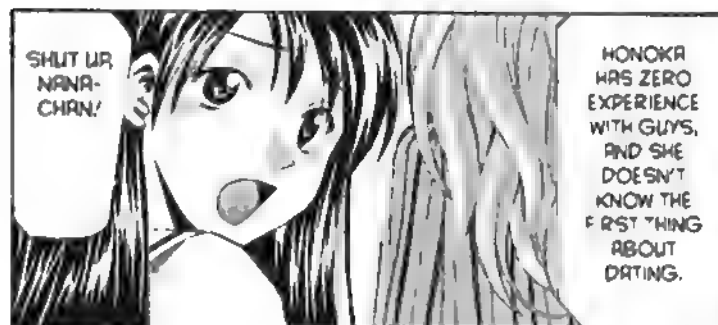
ME?

SO, AS
HONOKA'S
FRIEND, I
CAME HERE
TODAY TO
TELL HER
BOYFRIEND
SOMETHING
VERY
IMPORTANT.



AND THE
NEXT
THING
I KNEW,
WE WERE
FRIENDS.

IS
THAT
HOW
YOU
SAW
IT?



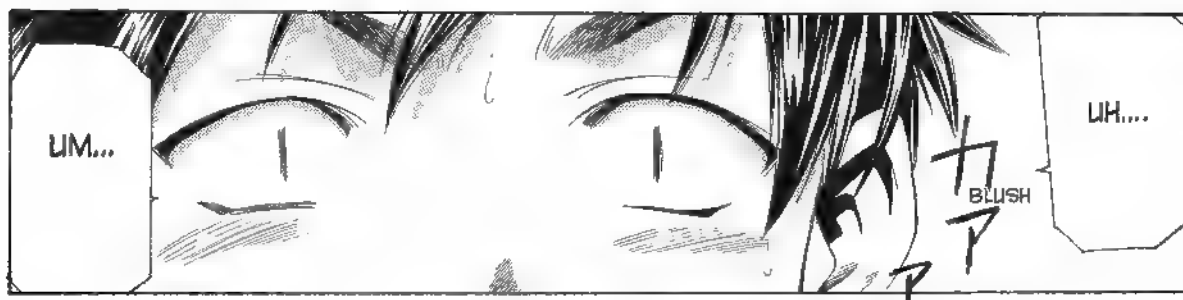
SHUT UP,
NANA-
CHAN!

HONOKA
HAS ZERO
EXPERIENCE
WITH GUYS,
AND SHE
DOESN'T
KNOW THE
FIRST THING
ABOUT
DATING.



YOU HAVE
TO BE
A LITTLE
MORE
GENTLE
WITH HER!

SO DON'T
TRY AND
JUMP HER
LIKE YOU
DID THE
OTHER
DAY...



UM...

UH....

BLUSH



GEEZ!

FWLMP

NO,
HONOKA!
YOU HAVE
TO MAKE
THESE
THNGS
CLEAR OR...



THE
BATH-
ROOM!

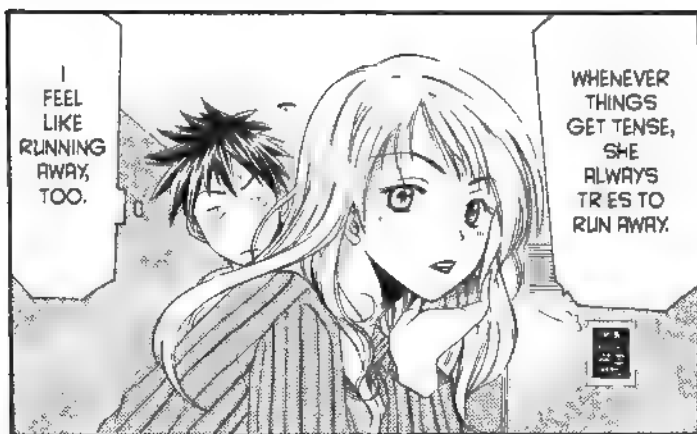
SLAM

AH...
WHERE'RE
YOU
GO NG,
HONOKA?



TH-THAT'S
ENOUGH,
NANA-
CHAN!

YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
TELL HIM
THAT!







WHAT
THE HELL
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
DOING?

SLAM



ASAHIWA?

AH...



WHAT?

NO!

WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
'NO'?

YOU'VE
ONLY BEEN
GOING OUT
WITH
HONOKA-
CHAN
FOR ONE
MONTH,
AND YOU'RE
ALREADY
CHEATING ON
HER?

YOU
ARE
SUCH A
JERK!



WHO'S
THAT?

SHE A
FRIEND
OF
YOUR'S,
YAMATO-
KUN?







13
M. MBLE
SORRY.



TH-
THAT'S
OKAY.



STEP



HUH?
OH
YEAH!

UM...
NANA-
CHAN...



SIT
DOWN,
YOU
GUYS.

OKAY,
I'LL GO
TELL THE
FRONT
DESK.

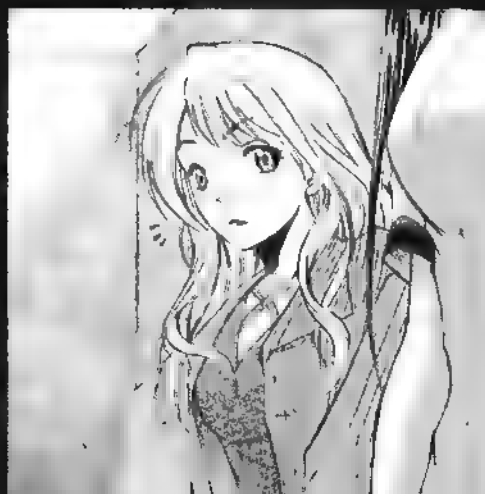


HUH?
DONT
YOU
HAVE
TO GET
BACK
TO
WORK?



AS LONG
AS WE'VE
GOT ALL
YOUR
TRACK
BUDDIES
HERE, WE
SHOULD
ALL DO
KARAOKE
TOGETHER!

REALLY?
YOU
SURE
YOU
DONT
MIND?



CHARACTER PROFILE NO. 14



NANA SHIRAKAWA
(HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN)

DATE OF BIRTH—SEPTEMBER 1 (VIRGO)

HEIGHT—5'4"

WEIGHT—?

BLOOD TYPE—AB

LIKES

- SINGING
- TIME TO HERSELF
- VEGGIES

DISLIKES

- STUCK-UP PEOPLE
- LOUD PEOPLE
- MEAT

LIFE'S GOAL —TO LAUNCH A CAREER IN THE UNITED STATES



NEXT
I'D LIKE
TO
SING
A NEW
SONG!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE WE
HAVE THE
ACTUAL
ARTIST
HERE
SINGING
HER OWN
SONGS.



ALL
RIGHT!
SING
IT,
NANA!

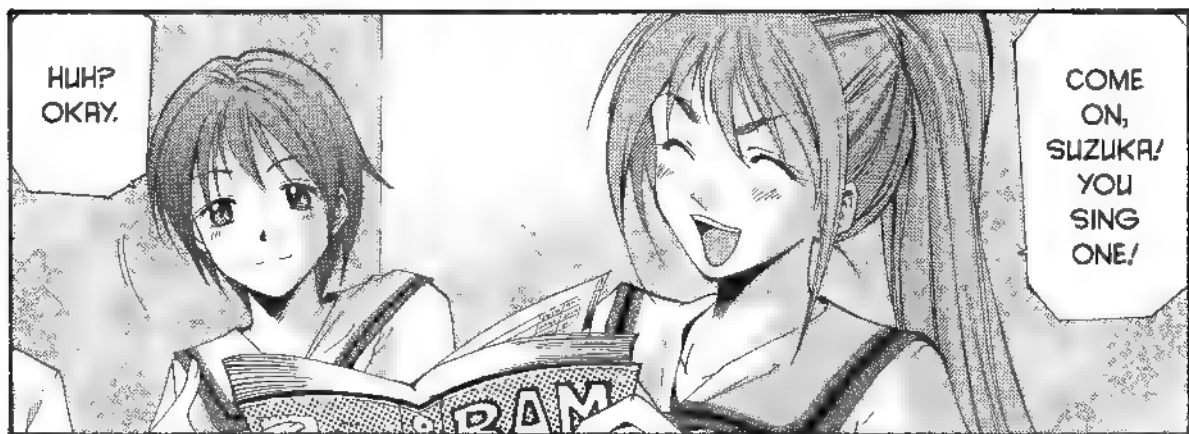


GO,
NANA-
CHAN!



SUZUKA

#47
BOYFRIEND



HUH?
OKAY.

COME
ON,
SUZUKA!
YOU
SING
ONE!



AH!



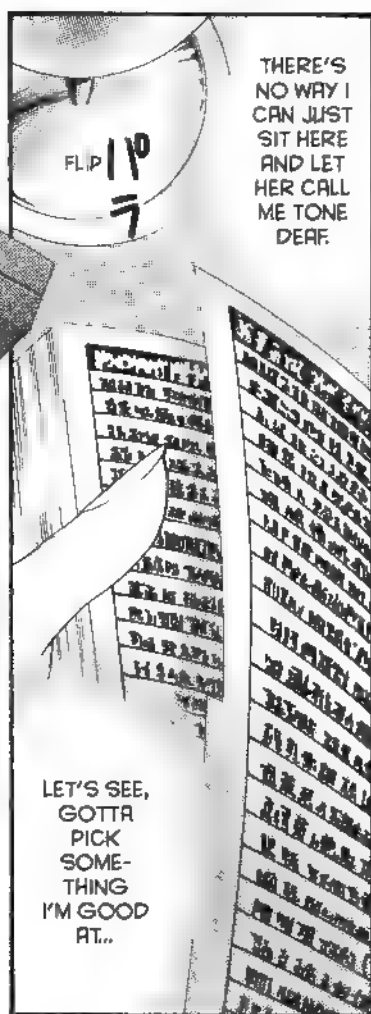
WAIT, CAN
YOU ONLY
SING
BASEBALL
SONGS?
IS THAT
IT?

HUH?

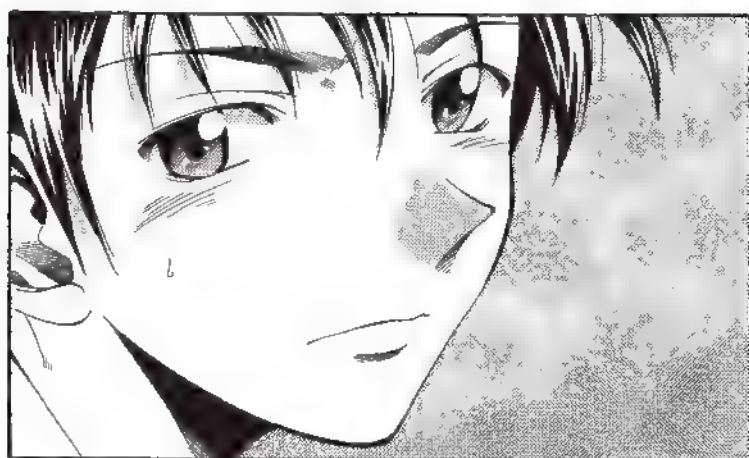


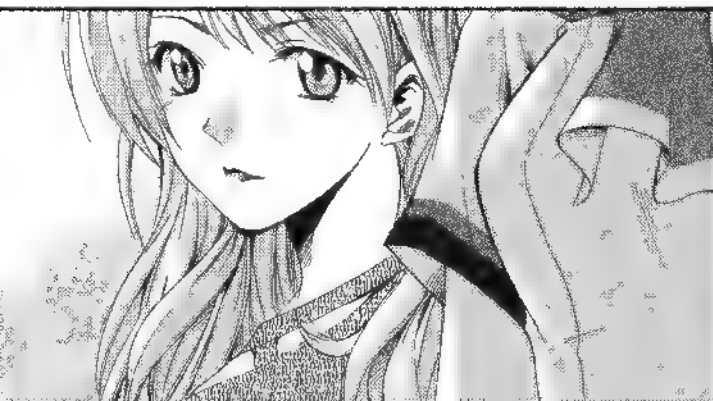
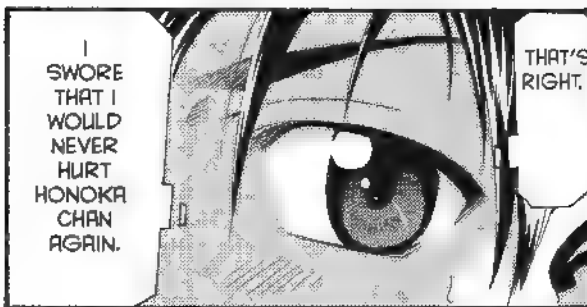
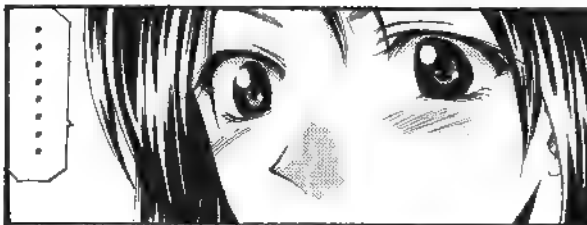
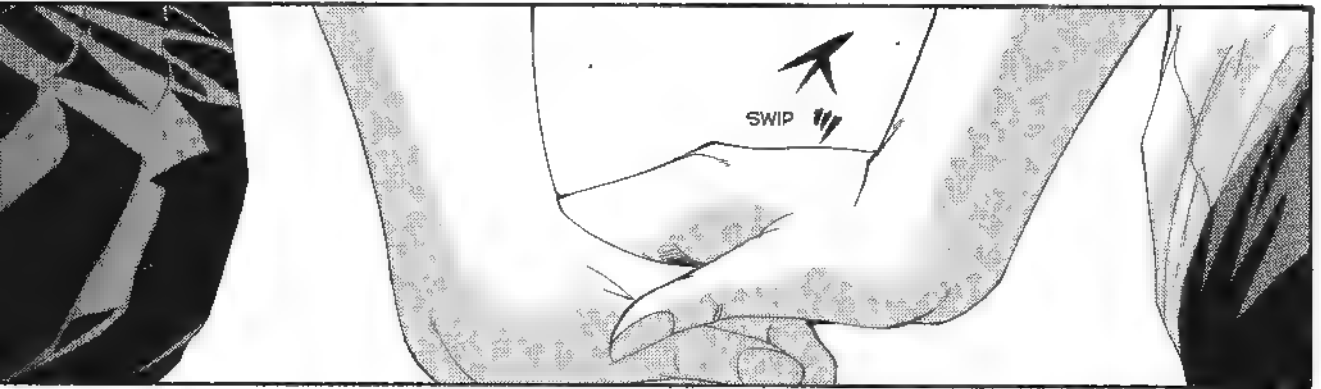
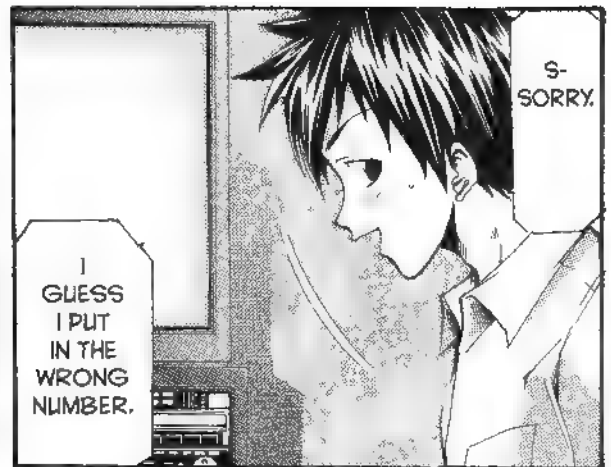
Y-
YEAH,
IN A
MINUTE.

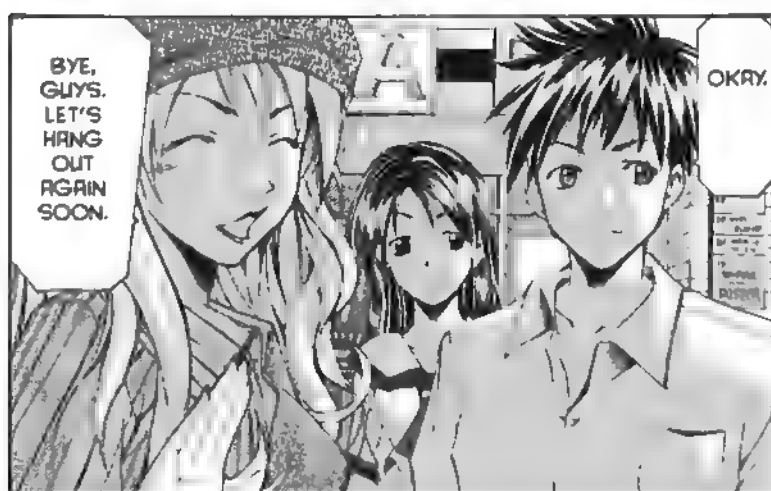
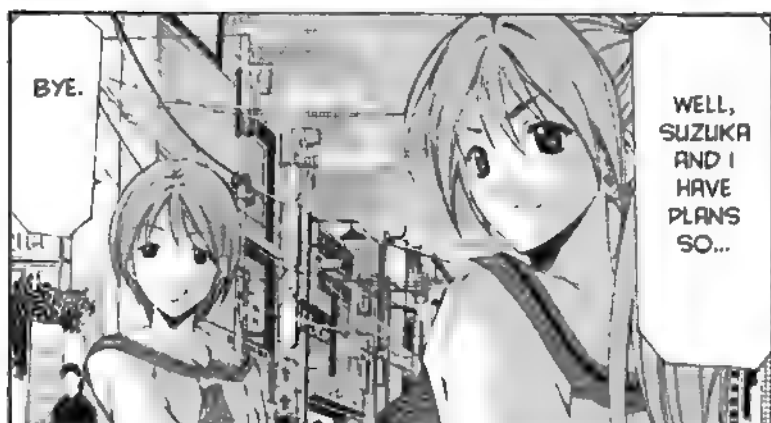
WHAT'S
WRONG?
YOU'RE
NOT
HAVING
FUN? WHY
DON'T
YOU SING
SOMETHING?













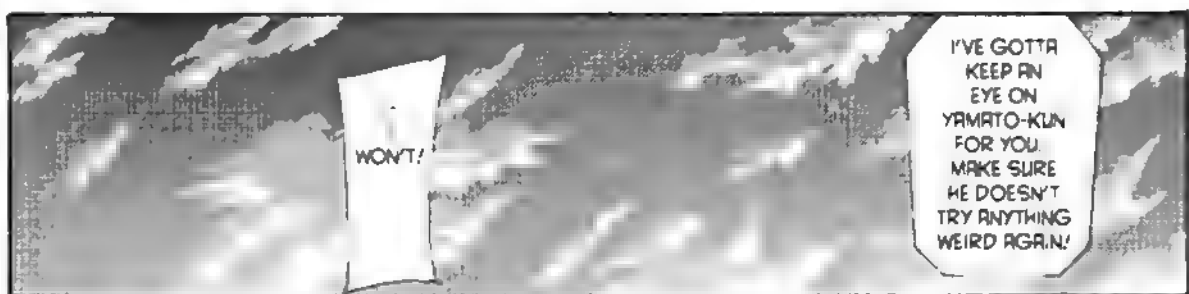
AS LONG
AS I'M
HERE, I
GUESS
I'LL WALK
YOU
HOME,
HONOKA-
CHAN.

WELL...



UM,
WHAT
DO YOU
WANNA
DO,
NANA-
CHAN?

WELL...
I GUESS
WE
SHOULD
HEAD
BACK
HOME.



WON'T!

I'VE GOTTA
KEEP AN
EYE ON
YAMATO-KUN
FOR YOU.
MAKE SURE
HE DOESN'T
TRY ANYTHING
WEIRD AGAIN!



NO
PROBLEM.

THANKS
FOR
WALKING
ME HOME,
NANA-
CHAN.



WHAT-
EVER.

I'D BEEN
WANTING
TO VISIT
THE SHRINE
WHERE
YOU FIRST
YELLED AT
ME ANYWAY.







HONOKA
HAD
A
SECRET
LOOK
AND
SHE'S
REALLY
CUTE
AND

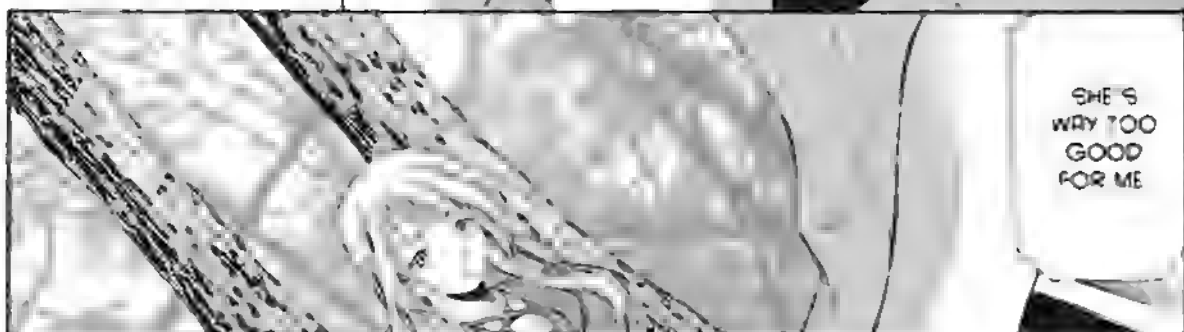
I'M
THE
ONE
WHO'S
HAPPY



FWUP



I THINK
SHE'S
REALLY
HAPPY
TO HAVE
FOUND A
BOYFRIEND
LIKE YOU
YANG-O
KUN



SHE'S
WAY TOO
GOOD
FOR ME



SO THAT
I NEVER
HURT
HONOKA
CHAN
AGAIN

THAT
HAVE
TO
BECOME
A
BETTER
BOY
FRIEND

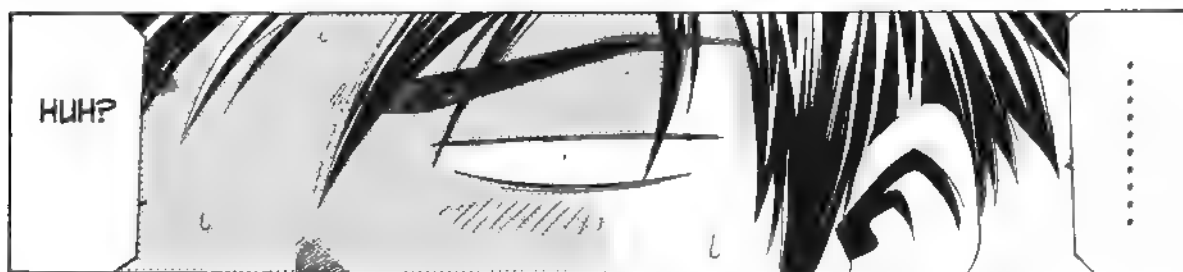


SO I
ALWAYS
FEEL LIKE
I HAVE
TO TRY
A LITTLE
HARDER



ARE
YOU A
COMPLETE
IDIOT?

.....



HUH?

.....



A SECOND
AGO YOU
WERE
TALKING
ABOUT
HOW NICE
I WAS.
YOU'RE
CRAZY.

WH-
WHAT
THE
HELL?



COME
ON. A
BOYFRIEND
THAT
WILL NEVER
HURT
HONOKA?



Y-
YEAH...

WHEN WE
WERE DOING
KARAOKE...
YOU DECIDED
NOT TO SING
WITH
SUZUKA-CHAN
BECAUSE YOU
WERE AFRAID
YOU'D HURT
HONOKA'S
FEELINGS...
R GHT?

DO YOU
EVEN
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
SAYING?

YOU WEREN'T DOING IT BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO, YOU ONLY HELD HER HAND BECAUSE YOU WERE AFRAID SHE WAS GONNA GET UPSET.

AND THEN YOU HELD HONOKA'S HAND...

IS THAT YOUR IDEA OF BECOMING A "BETTER BOY-FRIEND"?

SH-SHUT UP!

IT'S JUST THAT, IF YOU THINK THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO DO TO BE A GOOD BOYFRIEND, THEN YOU'RE AN IDIOT, YAMATO-KUN.

DON'T GET ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A CELEBRITY.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S AN IDIOT!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING.

O-O-KAY, SO WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE? SHOULD I HAVE JUST SANG WITH SUZUKA AND TURNED MY BACK ON HONOKA-CHAN?





UH...

DO YOU
EVEN KNOW
WHAT KIND
OF STUFF
HONOKA
LIKES, OR
WHAT HER
HOBBIES
ARE...

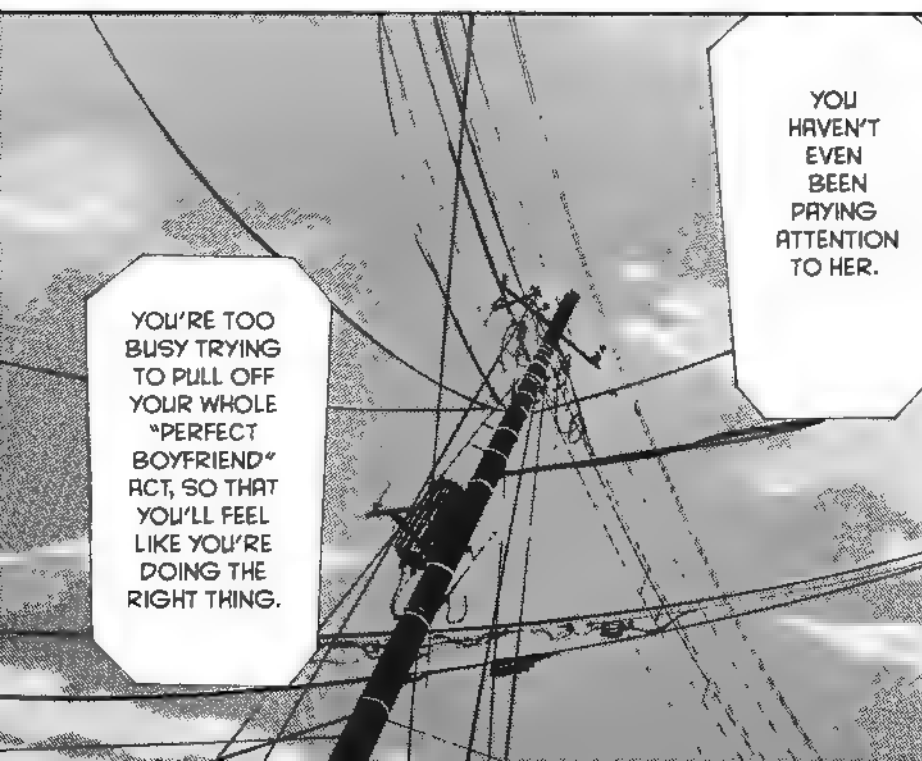
OR
HOW
ABOUT
HER
BIRTHDAY?
WHAT
DAY IS
IT?



TSSS

ARE YOU
REALLY IN
LOVE WITH
HONOKA?

SEE?



YOU'RE TOO
BUSY TRYING
TO PULL OFF
YOUR WHOLE
"PERFECT
BOYFRIEND"
ACT, SO THAT
YOU'LL FEEL
LIKE YOU'RE
DOING THE
RIGHT THING.

YOU
HAVEN'T
EVEN
BEEN
PAYING
ATTENTION
TO HER.



I GUESS
I DON'T...

...REALLY
KNOW
THAT
MUCH
ABOUT
HER.



IF YOU
GO INTO
A
RELATIONSHIP
WITHOUT
EVEN
KNOWING
HOW YOU
FEEL
ABOUT HER...

THEN OF
COURSE
YOU'RE
GONNA
END UP
HURTING
HONOKA/
IT'S JUST
A MATTER
OF TIME!



NOW
THAT I
THINK
ABOUT IT...
I REALLY
DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
HONOKA-
CHAN.

I
MEAN...
I HAVEN'T
EVEN
TRIED TO
GET TO
KNOW
HER.



I'M
SUPPOSED
TO BE
HER
BOYFRIEND...

BUT
WHY?

HUH?

IT'S
SEPTEMBER
16.

PHH...

HONOKO'S
BIRTHDAY.

OUCH.

LOOK,
IT'S
NOT
LIKE I'M
TRYING TO
BREAK
YOU
GUYS
UP OR
ANYTHING...

JUST,
GET
YOUR
SHIT
TO-
GETHER.

YOU'D
BETTER
HURRY UP
AND
FIND A
PRESENT
FOR HER!



...GETTING
TO
KNOW
HONOKA
FOR
REAL.

I
JUST
WANT YOU
TO
QUIT
BULL-
SHITTING,
AND
START...



O-
OKAY.

WHOOSH

THAT'S
ALL
I
WANTED
TO
SAY.

BYE.



GET
TO
KNOW...



...HONOKA-
CHAN
FOR
REAL...?

HYULL

#48

ADVICE



SUZUKA

BUT...

MIHO/
I TOLD
YOU NOT
TO PUT
GORO-CHAN
IN THE
BATHS,
DIDN'T I?

NO,
GORO-
CHAN!
RUN
AWAY!

GET
OVER
HERE,
GORO-
CHAN.

WHOOOSH

AH.

PUT HIM
OUTSIDE,
MIHO!
DON'T
WANT HIM
SHED-
DING
IN THE
BATHS.

WHAT
DOES IT
MATTER?
WE'RE
GONNA
DRAIN
THEM
ANYWAY.

MEOW

SPLASH

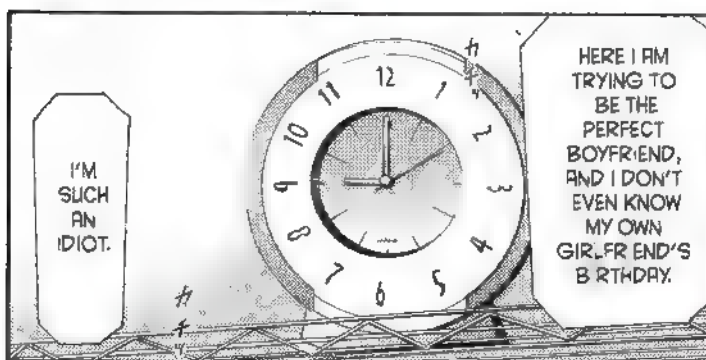
湯





...GETTING
TO KNOW
HONOKA
FOR REAL.

I JUST
WANT YOU
TO QUIT
BULL
SHITTING,
AND
START...



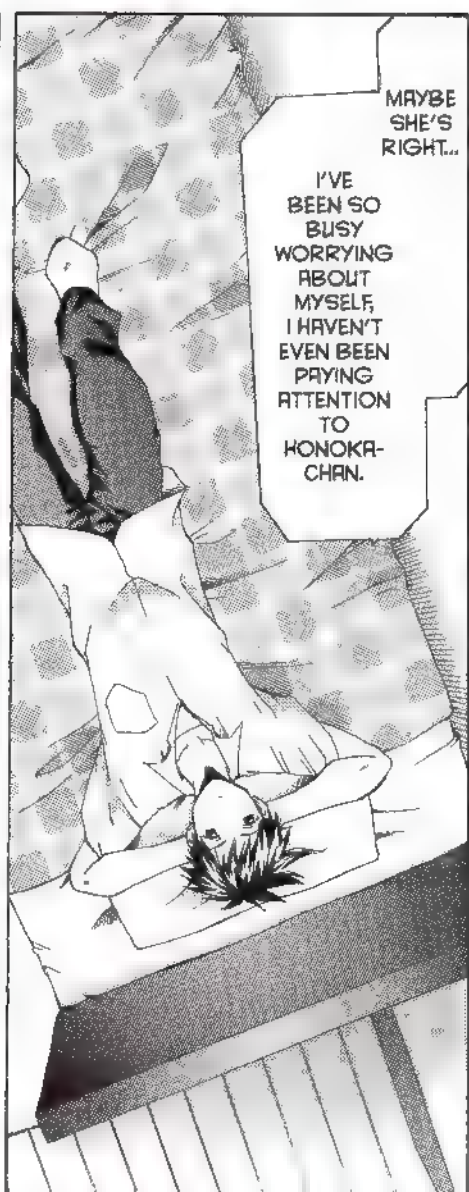
I'M
SUCH
AN
IDIOT.

HERE I AM
TRYING TO
BE THE
PERFECT
BOYFRIEND,
AND I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
MY OWN
GIRLFRIEND'S
BIRTHDAY.



HONOKA'S
BIRTHDAY!

IT'S
SEPTEMBER
16TH!



MAYBE
SHE'S
RIGHT...

I'VE
BEEN SO
BUSY
WORRYING
ABOUT
MYSELF,
I HAVEN'T
EVEN BEEN
PAYING
ATTENTION
TO
HONOKA-
CHAN.



I'M
GONNA
GIVE HER
THE BEST
BIRTHDAY
PRESENT
SHE'S
EVER
GOTTEN...

I'M
GONNA GO
SHOPPING
FOR A
PRESENT
THE DAY
AFTER
TOMORROW.



FW SH

THAT'S
IT!



THAT'S
WHAT SHE
GETS FOR
CONVINC-
ING JS ALL
TO DO
AN EXTRA
TWO
HOURS
OF
KARAOKE

...SO
NANA-
CHAN
ENDED
UP BEING
LATE FOR
WORK.

FROM NOW
ON, I REALLY
WILL BE THE
PERFECT
BOYFRIEND.



I WONDER
WHAT
KIND OF
PRESENT
HONOKA-
CHAN
WOULD
LIKE.

STEP
STEP



N
NOTH-
ING.

WHAT'S
WRONG?

OF
COURSE
I COULD
JUST
ASK HER,
BUT...

I REALLY
WANNA
SURPRISE
HER, SO...





WELL,
WE DON'T
HAVE
SCHOOL,
SO I
THOUGHT
MAYBE WE
COULD GO
SOMEWHERE
TOGETHER.

HUH?
WHY?



P L A N S ?

HUH?

OH,
UH...
ACTUALLY
I HAVE
PLANS.



AH...

HEY,
AKITSUKI-
KUN.

ARE
YOU
FREE
TOMOR-
ROW?



NO,
IT'S NO
BIG DEAL.

O-OH,
OKAY
THEN.

SORRY,
I DIDN'T
KNOW
YOU
HAD
PLANS.



UH,
UM...

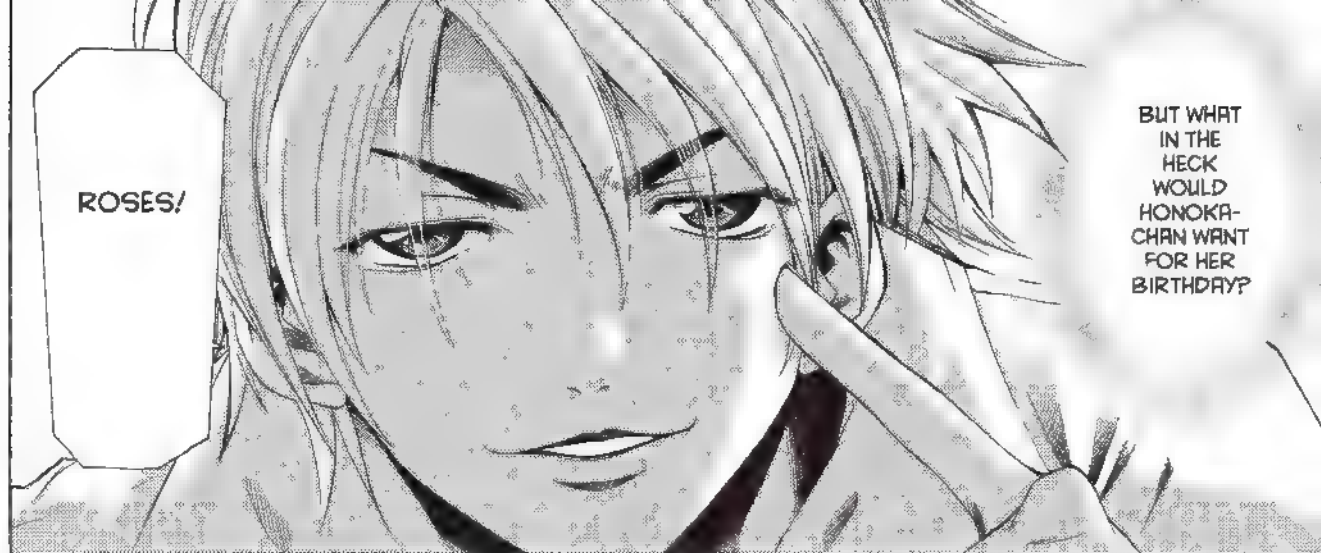
AH!

YASUNOBU!
I MADE
PLANS TO
HANG OUT
WITH
YASUNOBU!



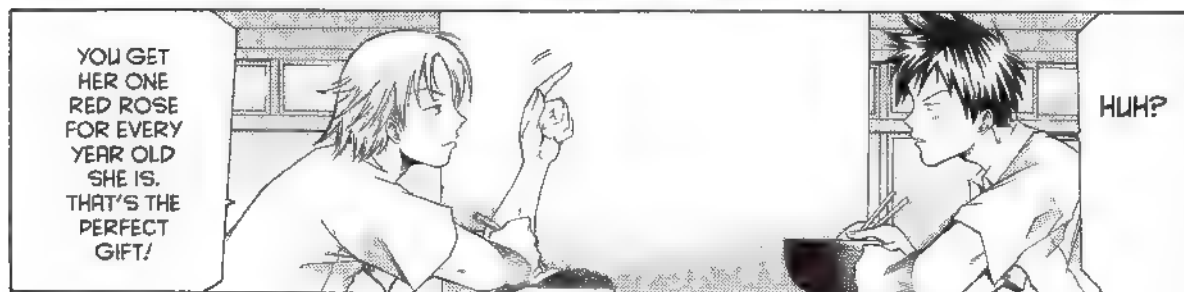
SORRY,
BUT YOUR
BIRTHDAY'S
IN TWO
DAYS.

I'VE
GOTTA GET
YOU A
PRESENT
TOMORROW.



ROSES!

BUT WHAT
IN THE
HECK
WOULD
HONOKA-
CHAN WANT
FOR HER
BIRTHDAY?



YOU GET
HER ONE
RED ROSE
FOR EVERY
YEAR OLD
SHE IS.
THAT'S THE
PERFECT
GIFT!

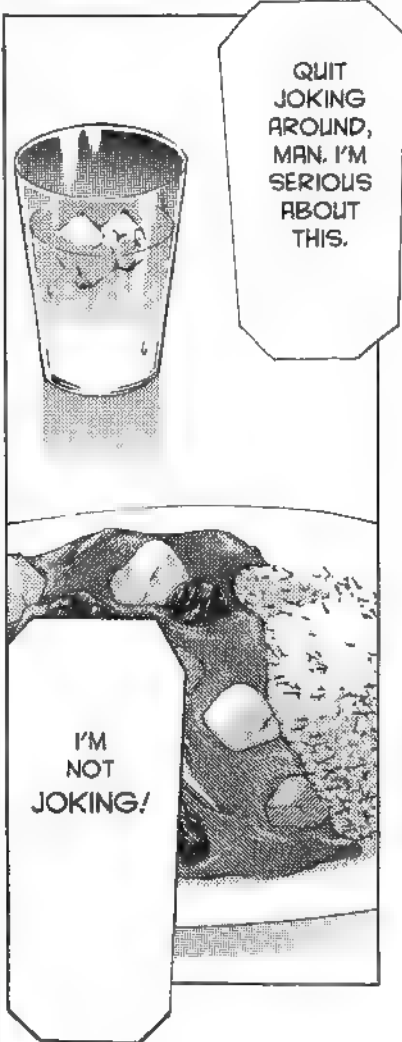
HUH?



NO GIRL
CAN
RESIST A
BOUQUET
OF
FLOWERS
FROM A
GUY SHE
LIKES.

I
TOLD
YOU,
DUDE.

GIRLS
ARE
BORN
ROMAN-
TICS.



QUIT
JOKING
AROUND,
MAN. I'M
SERIOUS
ABOUT
THIS.

I'M
NOT
JOKING!



YEAH,
SURE...
IT
WORKS
FOR YOU,
BUT...

IT
WORKS
FOR ME
EVERY
TIME!



CLINK
カラ
カラ
CLINK

...THAN
MAKING
YOUR
GIRLFRIEND
HAPPY.
IS THAT
HOW
IT IS?

OH,
I GET
IT. SO,
YOU'RE
MORE
CON-
CERNED
ABOUT
BEING
EMBAR-
RASSED...



HUH?

I'D BE
TOO
EMBAR-
RASSED
TO GO
ONTO A
FLOWER
SHOP
AND BUY
SOME-
THING
LIKE THAT.



OH NO,
I'M
DOING IT
AGAIN.

N-NO...



ROSES...

ROSES...

BUT...



HAVEN'T
YOU
EVER
HEARD
THE
EXPRES-
SION...

"A
MAN
MUST
SOMETIMES
SACRIFICE
HUMILITY
FOR
THE
LOVE
OF A
WOMAN"

SLAM

UH...



I'LL ASK A
FEW OTHER
PEOPLE, AND
THEN I'LL MAKE
UP MY MIND.

I'M
TELLING
YOU,
DUDE!
I'LL WORK.

ALL
RIGHT...
I'LL
KEEP
THAT IN
MIND.



WHAT
WOULD
YOU
WANT,
AYANO-SAN?

YEAH.



AS LONG
AS I COULD
TELL HE PUT
A LOT OF
THOUGHT
INTO IT, I'D
BE HAPPY
NO MATTER
WHAT HE
GAVE ME.

LET'S
SEE...



WHAT?
YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR
A
PRESENT
FOR
SAKURAI-
SENPAI?

UH...
CAN YOU
BE A
LITTLE
MORE
SPECIFIC?



A
BIRTHDAY
PRESENT?



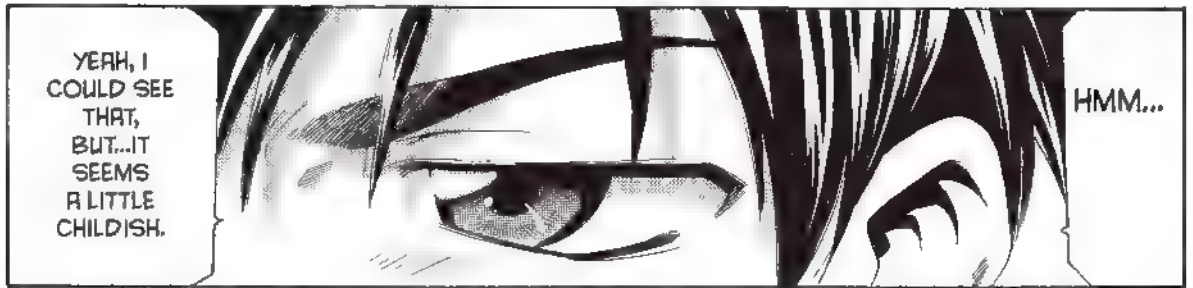
I
BET SHE
LOVES
TEDDY
BEARS!

YEAH!
SAKURAI-
SENPAI
IS
REALLY
GIRLY,
SO...



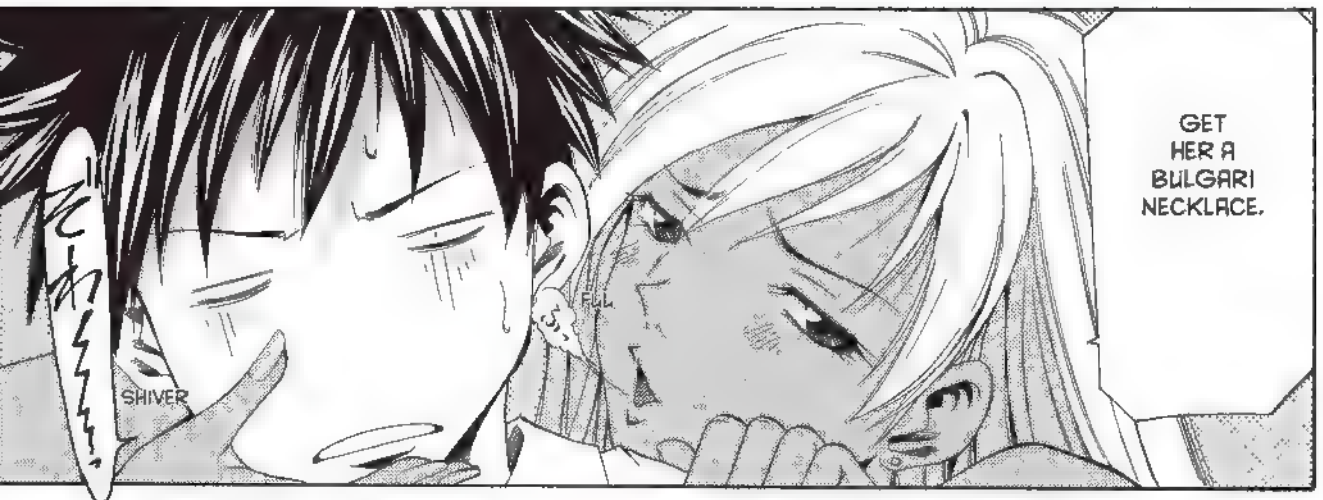
A
STUFFED
ANIMAL?

GET
HER A
STUFFED
ANIMAL,
YAMATO-KUN!



YEAH, I
COULD SEE
THAT,
BUT...IT
SEEMS
A LITTLE
CHILDISH.

HMM...



GET
HER A
BULGARI
NECKLACE.



LISTEN,
YAMATO-KUN.
THE PRICE
OF THE
PRESENT
IS THE
ONLY TRUE
MEASURE
OF LOVE.

ANY GUY
WHO
GIVES HIS
GIRLFRIEND
A
CHEAP-ASS
PIECE OF
JUNK
FOR A
BIRTHDAY
PRESENT
IS A
WORTHLESS
TOOL.



WHAT?
IT
SOUNDED
LIKE A
FUN
CONVERSA-
TION,
THAT'S ALL.

HEY!
GET AWAY
FROM
HIM, YOU
PERVERT!

YULKA-
SAN...
WHAT THE
HELL ARE
YOU
DOING?





OKAY, FINE. WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET NAKED, AND TIE A RIBBON AROUND YOUR NECK?

THEN JUST SAY, HERE'S YOUR PRESENT.



TRY THINKING OF SOMETHING YOURSELF!

STOP JOKING AROUND, AND HELP ME THINK OF SOMETHING.



GOD, YOU REALLY ARE WORTHLESS.

CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING. THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU.



OKAY?

NOW THAT YOU'VE HEARD EVERYONE'S ADVICE, WHY DON'T YOU JUST RELAX AND THINK IT OVER?



EVERYONE'S ADVICE, HUHP?

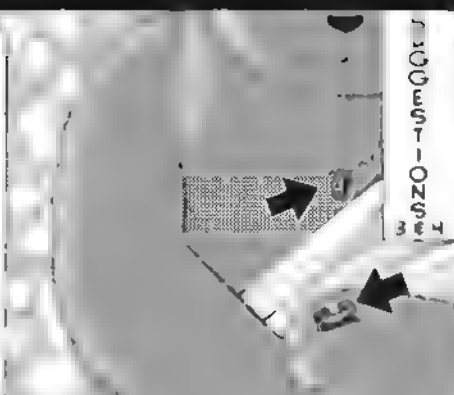
OKAY.



NOW, NOW...

N-NEEED.

WEARING
A
BULGARI
NECKLACE
AND
AN
ENGAGEMENT
RING



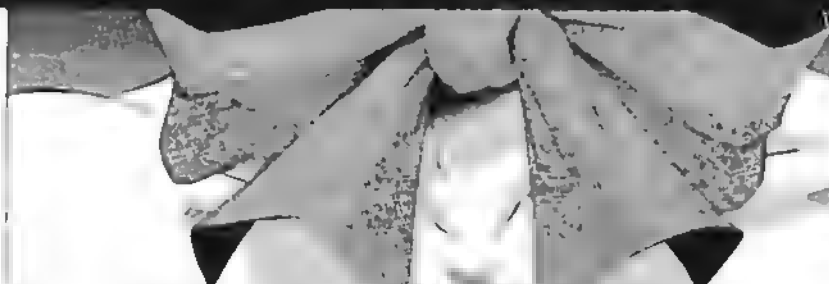
QUESTION
3254

GET A
TEDDY
BEAR
HOLDING
A
BOUQUET
OF
ROSES,
AND...



ANSWER
1022

AND THEN
GET NAKED.
TIE A RIBBON
AROUND
MY NECK,
WALK UP TO
HONOKA-
CHAN...



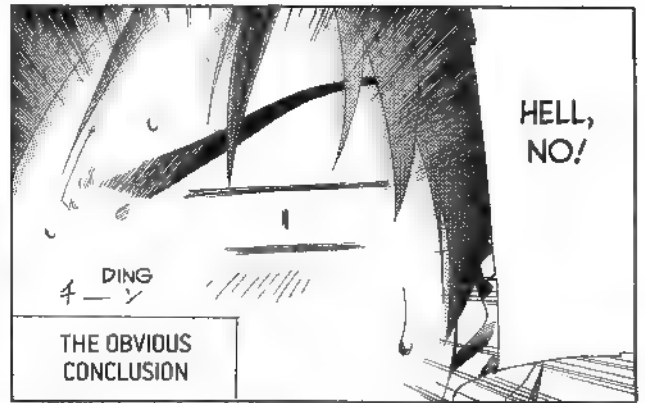
ANSWER
546



HERE'S
YOUR
PRESENT.



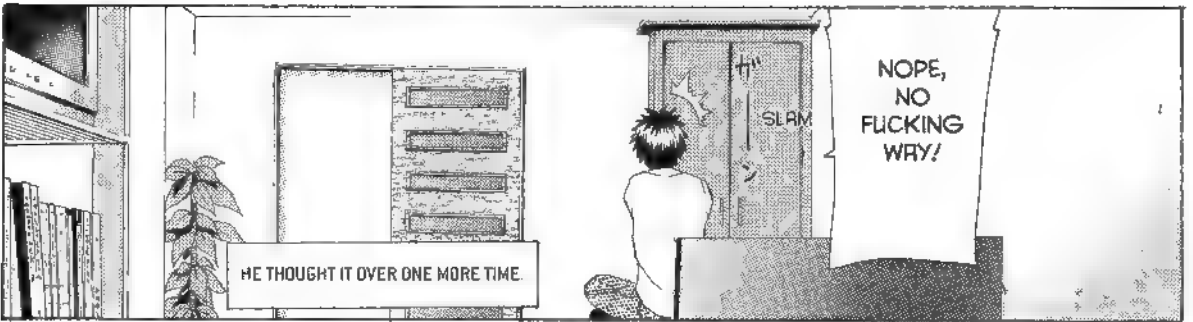
AND
SAY...



HELL,
NO!

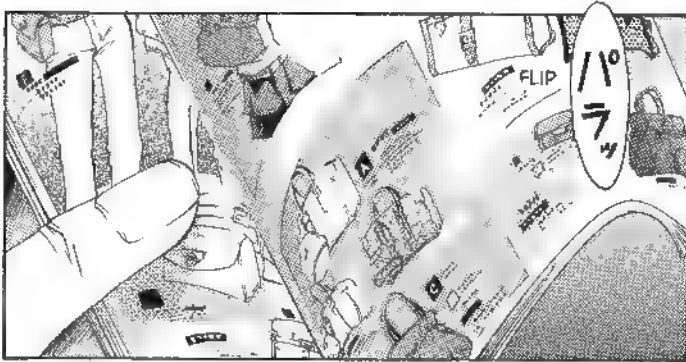
DING
4ーソ

THE OBVIOUS
CONCLUSION



NOPE,
NO
FUCKING
WAY!

HE THOUGHT IT OVER ONE MORE TIME.



110
フリッ



THIS
SUCKS.

I
CAN'T
THINK
OF
ANY-
THING.



HMM...

NOTHING
REALLY
STICKS
OUT.

110
フリッ



MAYBE
I'LL GO TO
THE STORE,
AND FLIP
THROUGH
SOME
MAGAZINES.
THAT
OUGHTA
GIVE ME
SOME
IDEAS.

I
JUST
NEED
SOMETHING
SIMPLE.



!?

AH,
ASAHINA/
NO, I
WAS—

AH!

YOU'RE
READING
A
PORNO
MAG!

SLAM



ISN'T
THAT A
GIRLS'
MAGAZINE?

HOT HAIRSTYLES FOR GIRLS

Gawae!

HUH?



HUH?



HER
BIRTHDAY
IS IN TWO
DAYS.

OH...



I
DON'T
KNOW. A
NECKLACE
OR
SOMETHING?

AH, WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
SHE'D
WANT,
ASAHINA?



EEW,
I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU'RE
INTO
THAT
STUFF.

SHUT UP,
I'M JUST
TRYING
TO
FIGURE
OUT WHAT
TO GET
HONOKA-
CHAN.



WHAT?



MAYBE YOU
COULD
COME
SHOPPING
WITH ME
TOMORROW
IF YOU'RE
NOT DOING
ANYTHING,
ASHINA.

YEAH,
I JUST
WOULDN'T
KNOW
HOW TO
PICK
ONE OUT,
SO...



OH YEAH...
I GUESS
YOU CAN'T
HAVE ANOTHER
GIRL HELP
YOU BUY A
PRESENT FOR
YOUR
GIRLFRIEND.

UH...
JUST
KIDDING.
SORRY.



I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE
SAID
ANYTHING.

THIS
IS
TOTALLY
AWK-
WARD.



I'LL
JUST GO
SHOPPING
TOMORROW.

I'LL
FIND
SOMETHING.



HUH?

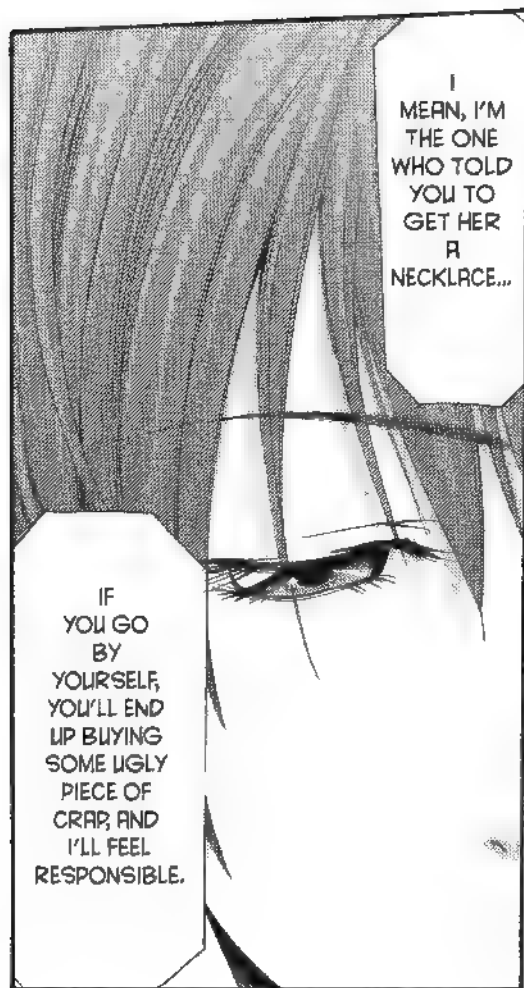
I'LL
GO
WITH
YOU.





HUH?

REALLY?



I
MEAN, I'M
THE ONE
WHO TOLD
YOU TO
GET HER
A
NECKLACE...

IF
YOU GO
BY
YOURSELF,
YOU'LL END
UP BUYING
SOME UGLY
PIECE OF
CRAP, AND
I'LL FEEL
RESPONSIBLE.



I'M
DOING
SOMETHING
TOMORROW,
BUT...

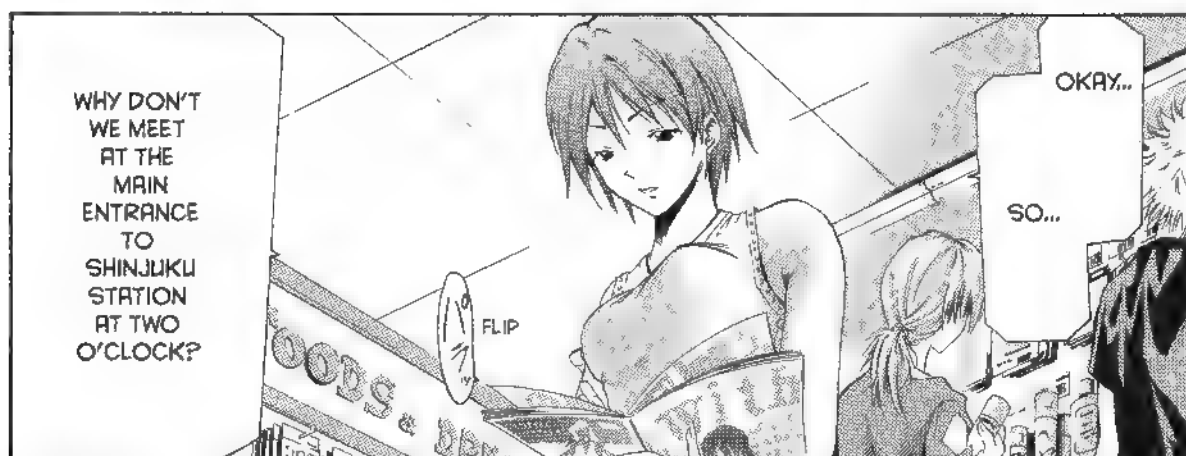
I
GUESS
I COULD
GO
SHOPPING
WITH YOU
FOR A
LITTLE BIT
WHEN I'M
DONE.



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
T.

SERIOUSLY,
I WAS
FREAKING
OUT!

THANKS/
YOU
JUST
SAVED
MY
ASS.



WHY DON'T
WE MEET
AT THE
MAIN
ENTRANCE
TO
SHINJUKU
STATION
AT TWO
O'CLOCK?

OKAY...

SO...



TH-THIS
IS NO
BIG
DEAL,
RIGHT?



OKAY,
COOL!
THANK
YOU
SO
MUCH.

DON'T
BE LATE.
I DON'T
WANNA
WAIT
AROUND
FOR YOU.

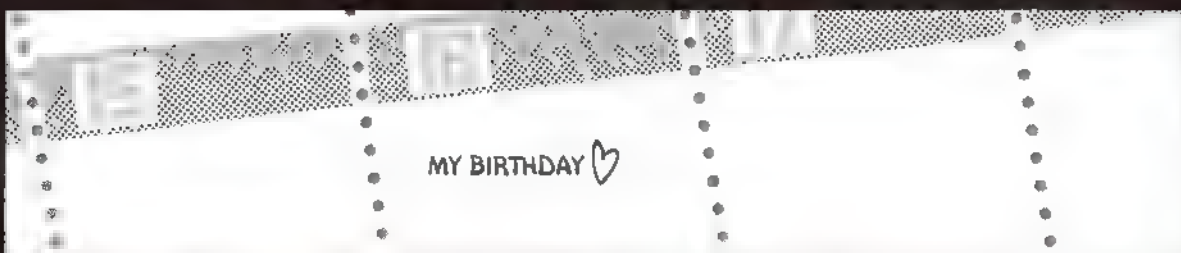
I'LL
BE
THERE.



I MEAN, IT'S
NOT LIKE
IT'S A DATE.
IT'S JUST
A LITTLE
SHOPPING
TRIP



BESIDES,
I'M ONLY
DOING IT SO
I CAN GET A
PRESENT FOR
HONOKA-
CHAN.

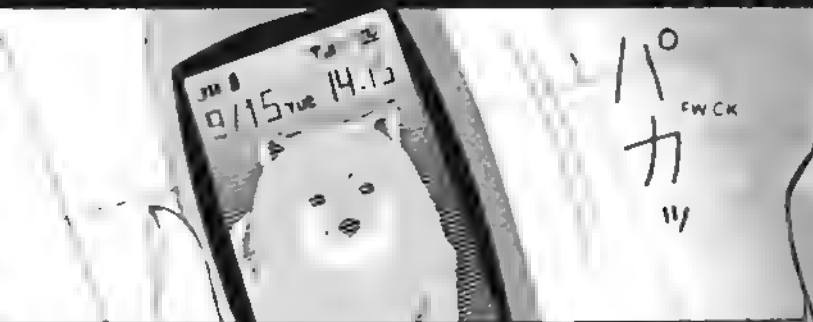


MY BIRTHDAY ♡



I
GUESS
AKITSUKI-
KUN...

...DOESN'T
KNOW
ABOUT
MY
BIRTHDAY.



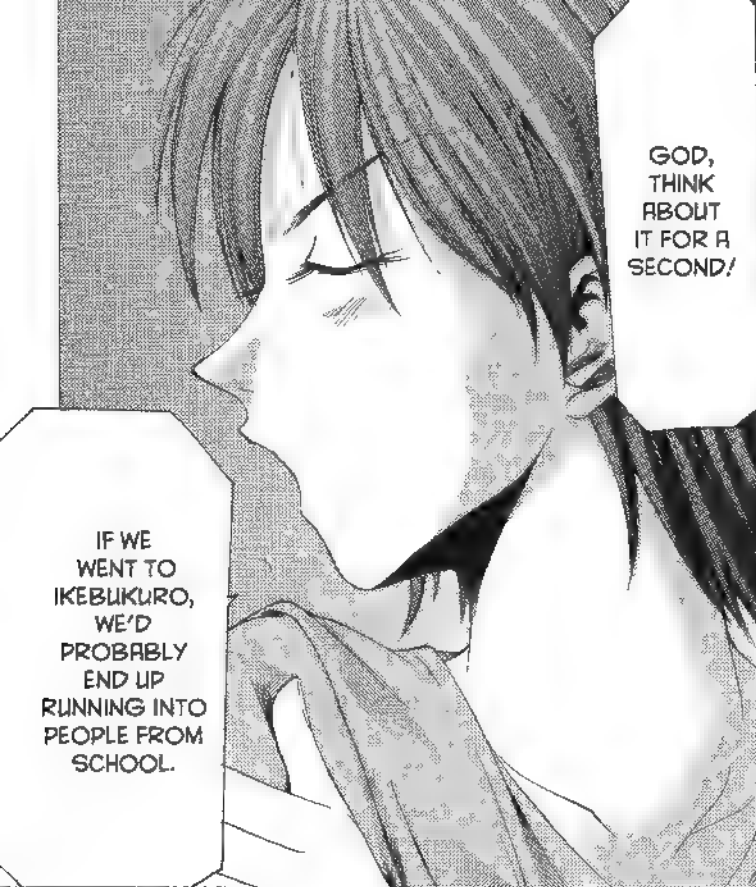
GOD!
I SAID
THE MAIN
ENTRANCE!
WHY DON'T
YOU EVER
LISTEN?

SORRY,
I WENT
TO THE
WRONG
ENTRANCE,
AND GOT
TOTALLY
LOST.



SUZUKA

#49
SHINJUKU



GOD,
THINK
ABOUT
IT FOR A
SECOND!

IF WE
WENT TO
IKEBUKURO,
WE'D
PROBABLY
END UP
RUNNING INTO
PEOPLE FROM
SCHOOL.



SORRY,
I'VE
NEVER
EVEN
BEEN TO
SHINJUKU
BEFORE.

WHY
COULDN'T
WE HAVE
JUST GONE
TO IKE-
BUKURO?
THAT'S
RIGHT ON
YOUR WAY
HOME.



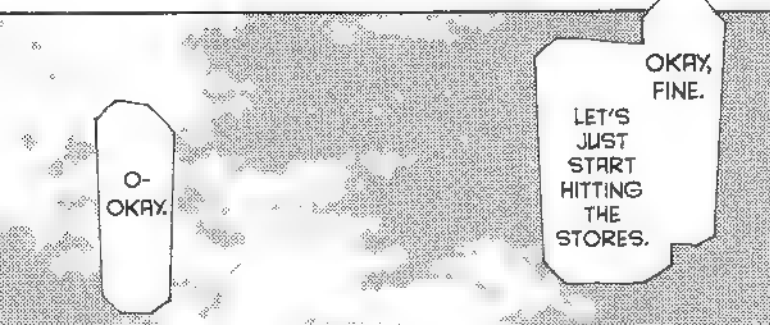
AH...

OH
YEAH.

HUH?



UH...
I DON'T
KNOW.
I MEAN,
WE DON'T
REALLY
TALK
ABOUT
THAT
STUFF,
SO...



O-
OKAY.

OKAY,
FINE.

LET'S
JUST
START
HITTING
THE
STORES.



WHATEVER,
LET'S
JUST
GO.

SO
WHAT
STYLE
OF
JEWELRY
DOES
HONOKA-
CHAN
LIKE?

WHAT
STYLE?

LOVE HOROSCOPE ★★★★★★

VIRGO
(AUGUST 23RD - SEPTEMBER 22ND)

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS
COMING UP, AND LOVE
IS IN THE STARS. YOUR
BOYFRIEND JUST MIGHT
SURPRISE YOU WITH AN
UNEXPECTED GIFT.

MONEY ★★★★★★





S-SAOTOME-SAN!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. HE WENT OUT TO BUY YOU A BIRTHDAY PRESENT.



UH... AKITSUKI-KUN IS HANGING OUT WITH HATTORI-KUN TO-DAY.

HUH?



A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR ME?

AH...

YAMATO-KUN SAID HE WANTED TO SURPRISE HER.



WHATEVER.

GEEZ, YOU RUINED EVERYTHING. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SURPRISE.



S SORRY, JUST FORGET I SAID THAT.

HE'S PROBABLY GONNA GET YOU SOMETHING CRAPPY, SO JUST MAKE SURE YOU ACT REALLY EXCITED.



AKITSUKI-KUN IS OUT BUYING A PRESENT FOR ME?



I MEAN,
I DIDN'T
EVEN
DO
ANYTHING
FOR
AKITSUKI-
KUN
ON HIS
BIRTHDAY.

NOW
HAVE
TO DO
SOME-
THING
FOR
HIM.



THAI STYLE
SPICY CURRY

食材:
新巻伊勢丹地 F



OH...

SO
HE
DOES
KNOW...

BACK ISSUES



YOU
COULD
BE ON
IRON
CHEF!

THIS
IS
REALLY
GOOD!



I'LL
GO
SHOPPING.



MAYBE...



I FEEL
SO
OUT OF
PLACE.

WHOA,
I'VE
NEVER
BEEN TO
A STORE
LIKE THIS.



W
A
H .



HUH?
OH,
OKAY.

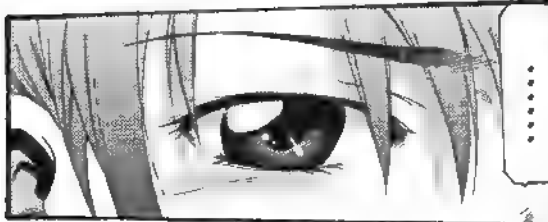
GET
OVER
HERE,
AND
HELP ME
PICK
ONE,
YAMATO-
KUN.

QUIT
SPACING
OUT.



I
DON'T
REALLY
KNOW.

LH,
YEAH...
MAYBE.



.....



Y-
YEAH,
OKAY.

WELL,
WHY
DON'T
WE TRY
ANOTHER
STORE?



THIS IS
CUTE,
BUT IT
MIGHT BE
A LITTLE
FLASHY
FOR
HONOKA-
CHAN.

SHE'D
PROBABLY
WANT
SOMETHING
A LITTLE
MORE
SUBTLE,
DON'T YOU
THINK?



I'M SO GLAD I ASKED ASAHINA FOR HELP.

NO



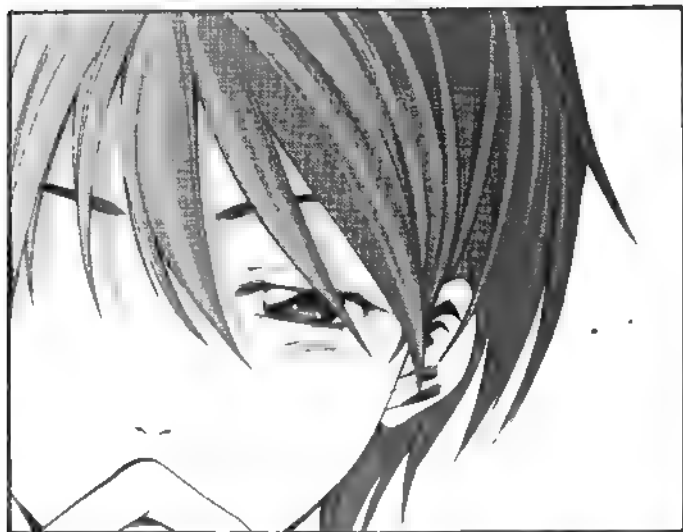
AH.

YEAH, THAT MIGHT BE GOOD.

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST GO TO SHIBUYA.

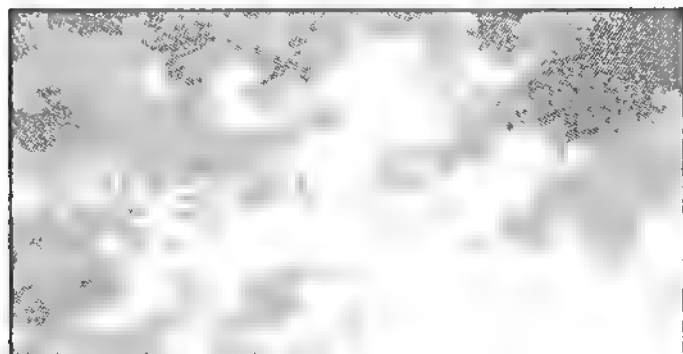


I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF PRESENT A GIRL WOULD LIKE.



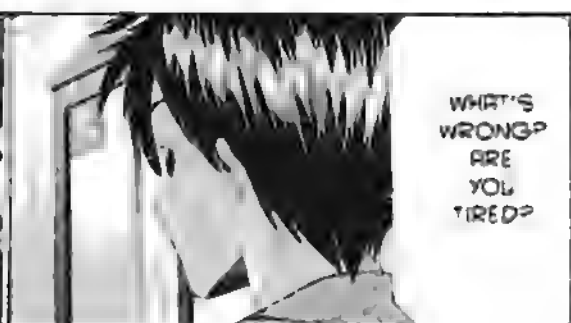
BUT ASAHINA KNOWS ALL ABOUT FASHION, AND SHE LOVES TO SHOP.

IF I LET HER HANDLE IT, I'M SURE SHE'LL PICK SOMETHING GOOD.





...NO.

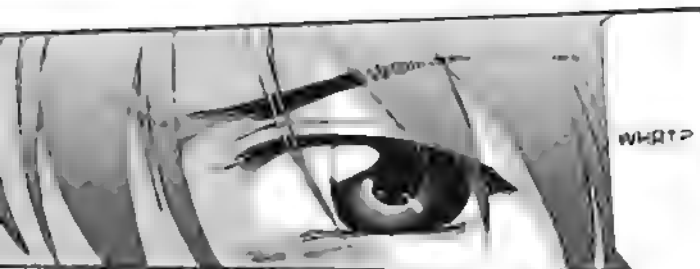


WHAT'S
WRONG?
ARE
YOU
TIRED?



SORRY...
I DON'T
REALLY
REMEMBER
WHAT
THEY
LOOKED
LIKE

TH-
THE
ONE
I
LIKE
BEST?



WHAT?



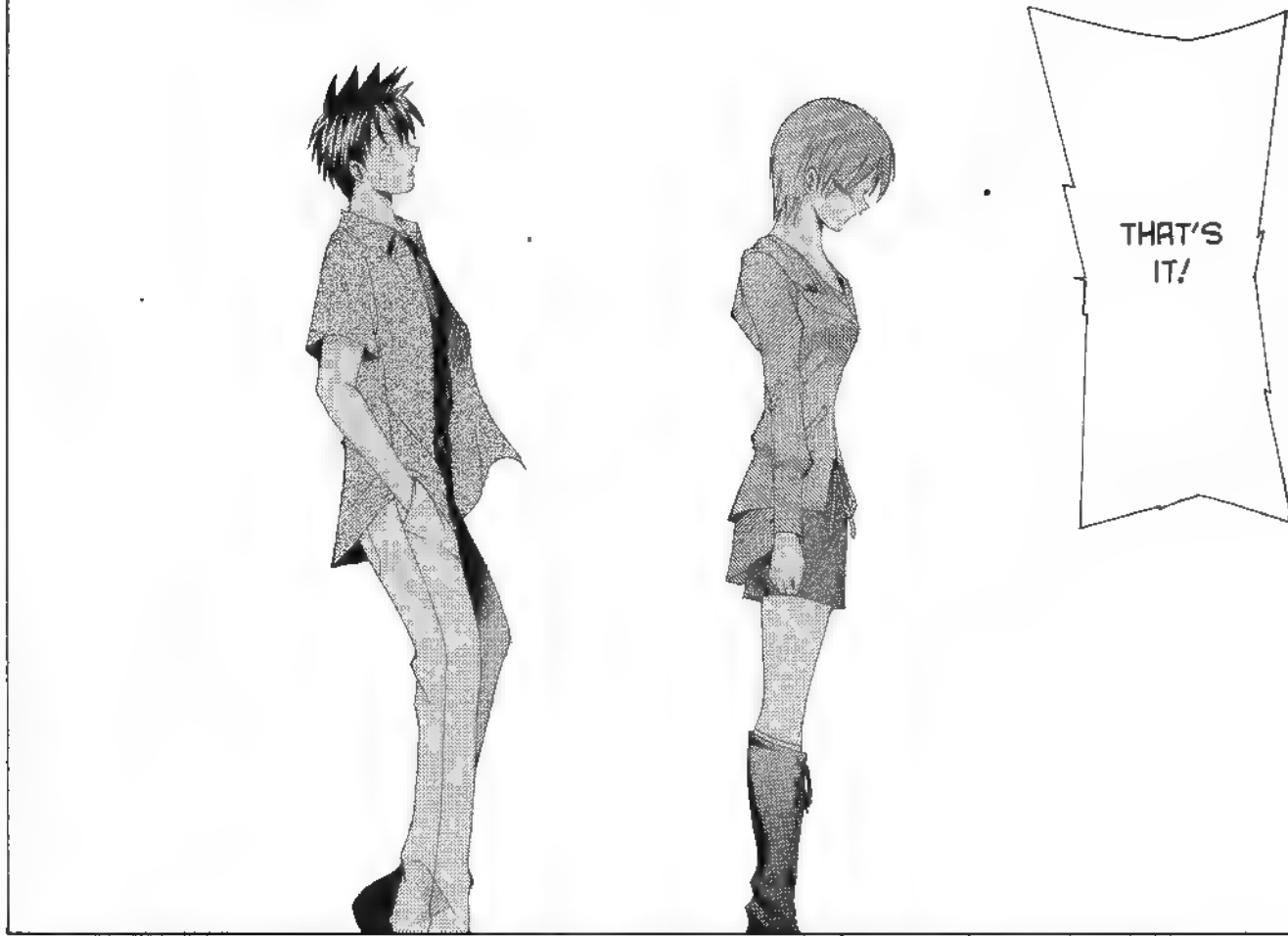
"UJUS"
GE"
WHICHEVER
ONE YOU
LIKE BEST"
ASAHINA

I-I
MEAN.

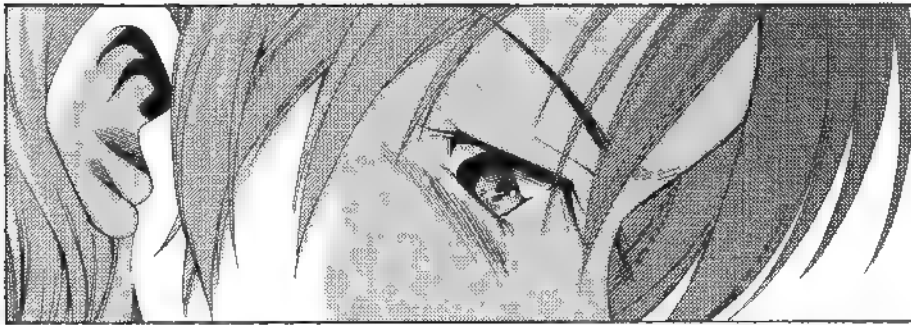


I THINK
HONOKA-
CHAN
WOULD LIKE
THE
NECKLACES
WE SAW
AT
MARUI
AND
ISETAN.

SO NOW ALL
YOU HAVE
TO DO IS
PICK THE
ONE YOU
LIKE BEST.
YAMATO-
KUN.



THAT'S
IT!



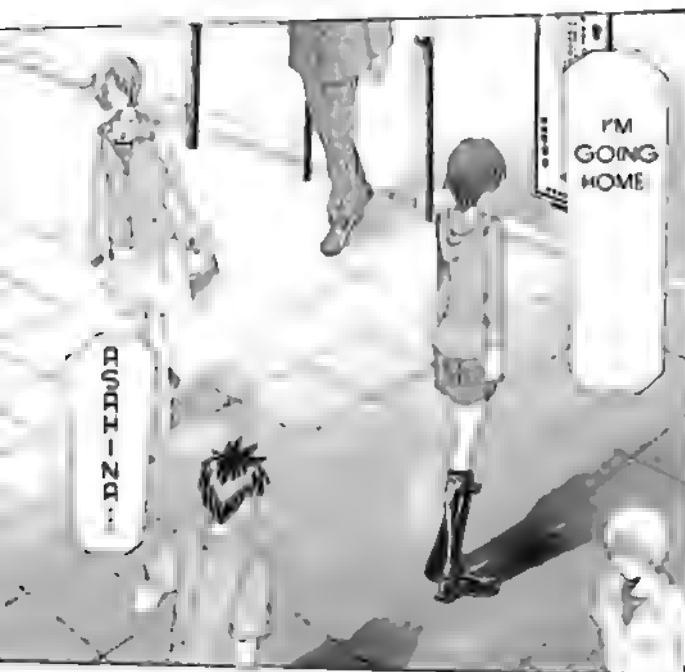
GET
YOUR
SHIT
TOGETHER.

NO MATTER
WHAT I ASK
YOU...NO
MATTER
HOW MANY
THINGS I
SHOW YOU,
ALL YOU
CAN SAY
IS I DON'T
KNOW.



HUH?

UH...





I'LL
GIVE
YOU A
GOOD
DEAL.

NOW YOU
HAVE TO
BUY
SOMETHING
TO MAKE
UP FOR
DRIVING
MY
CUSTOMERS
AWAY.



HUH...
YOU'RE THE
NEWSPAPER
GIRL...
AND THE
CABLE GIRL...
AREN'T YOU?



HEY,
WHAT'S
UP?

BOBBY
MADE
THESE
ALL BY
HIMSELF.
PRETTY
AMAZING,
HUH?



IT
WON'T
COST
YOU
ANYTHING
TO
LOOK.

HEY,
SUZUKA-
CHAN!
WIPE THAT
FROWN OFF
YOUR FACE,
AND CHECK
OUT MY
SELECTION.



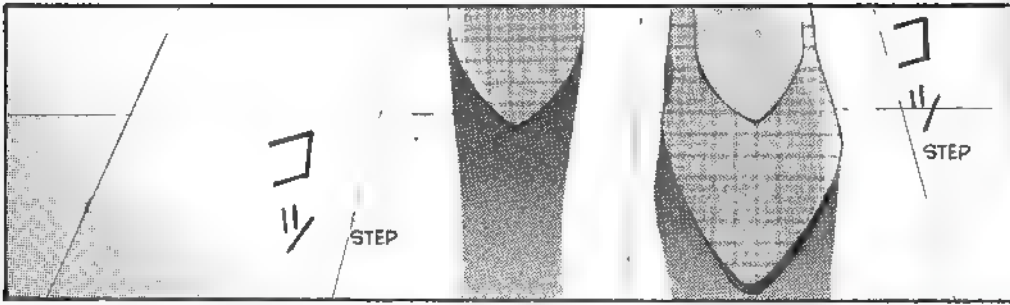
WOW,
THIS
STUFF
IS PRETTY
COOL.

BUT
I...

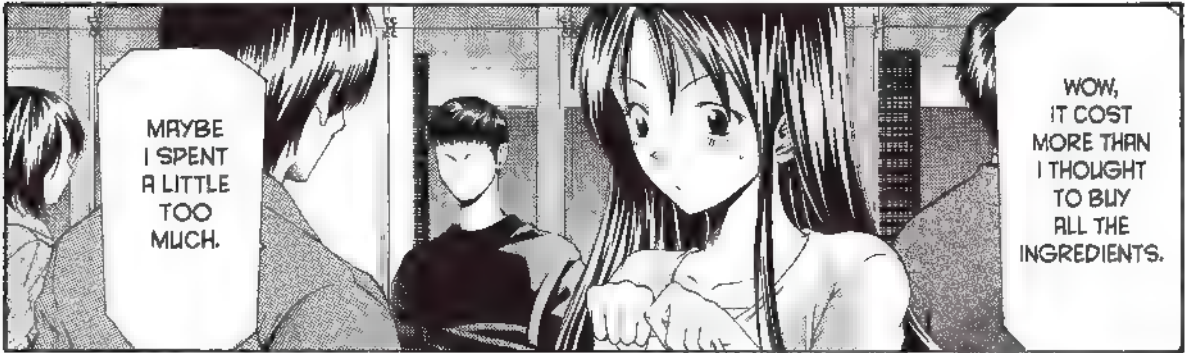








I'LL BET
HONOKA-CHAN'LL
BE REALLY
HAPPY.



MAYBE
I SPENT
A LITTLE
TOO
MUCH.

WOW,
IT COST
MORE THAN
I THOUGHT
TO BUY
ALL THE
INGREDIENTS.



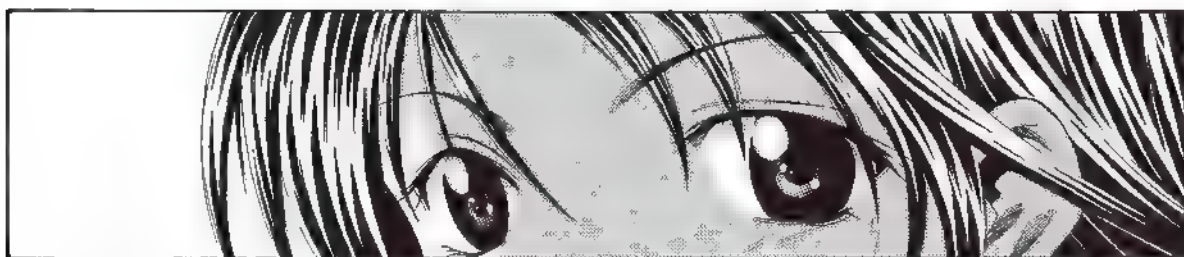
WELL...
HE'S OUT
BUYING
A
PRESENT
FOR ME,
SO...

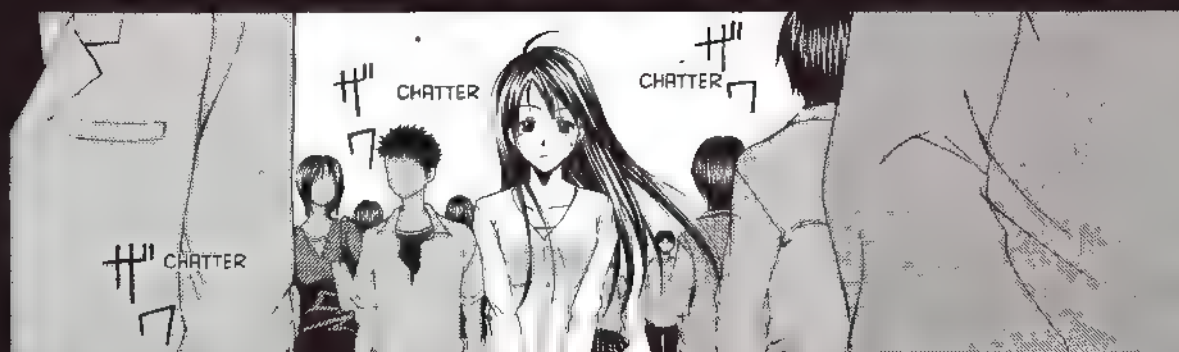
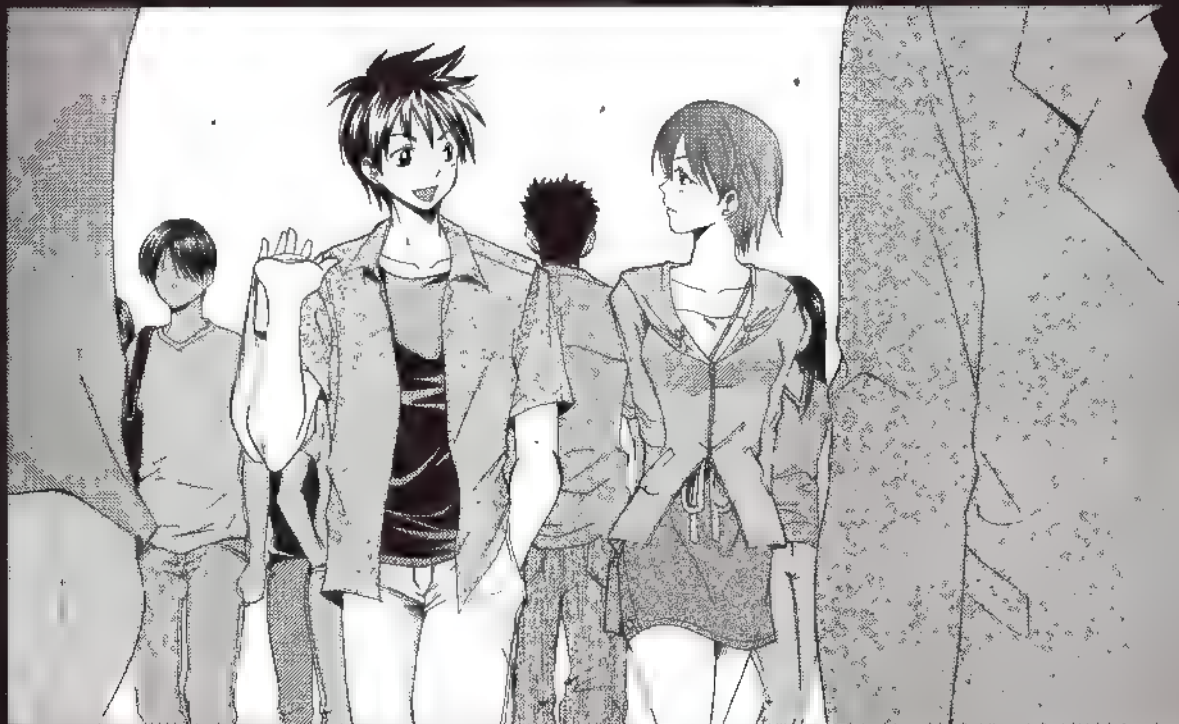
THE LEAST
I COULD
DO IS
MAKE A
NICE
DINNER
FOR HIM.



AH!

YASUNOBU!
I MADE
PLANS TO
HANG OUT
WITH
YASUNOBU.





CONTINUED IN VOLUME 7

SUZUKA-MON

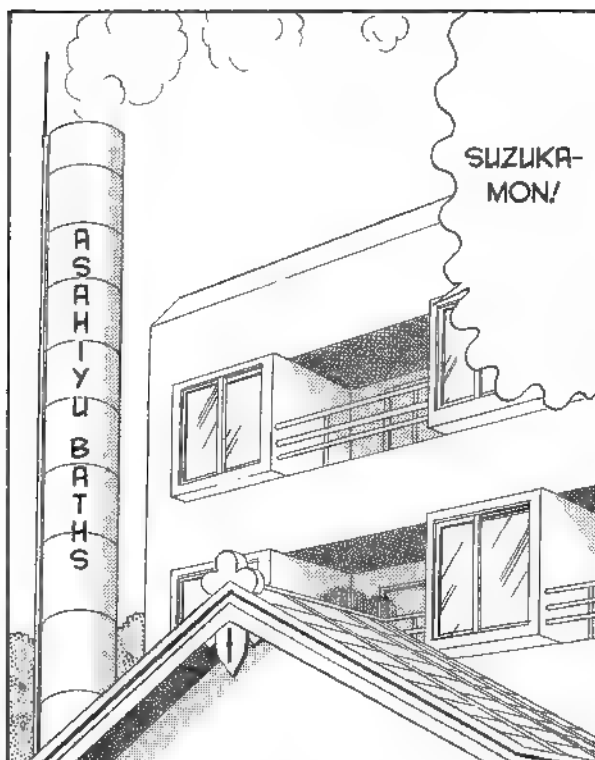


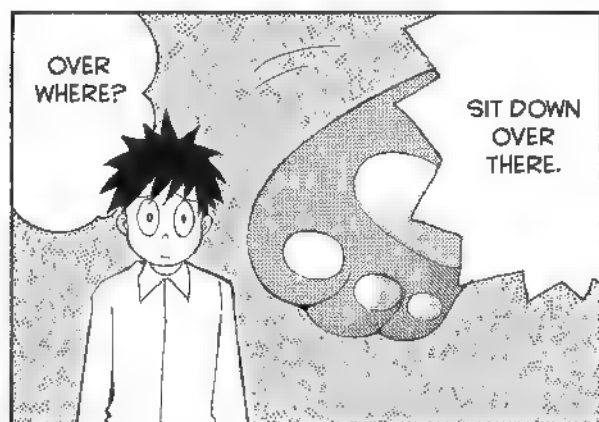
**KABUTO
COMICS**

CHAPTER 1 THE PROTEIN SUPPLEMENT



KOUJI SEO

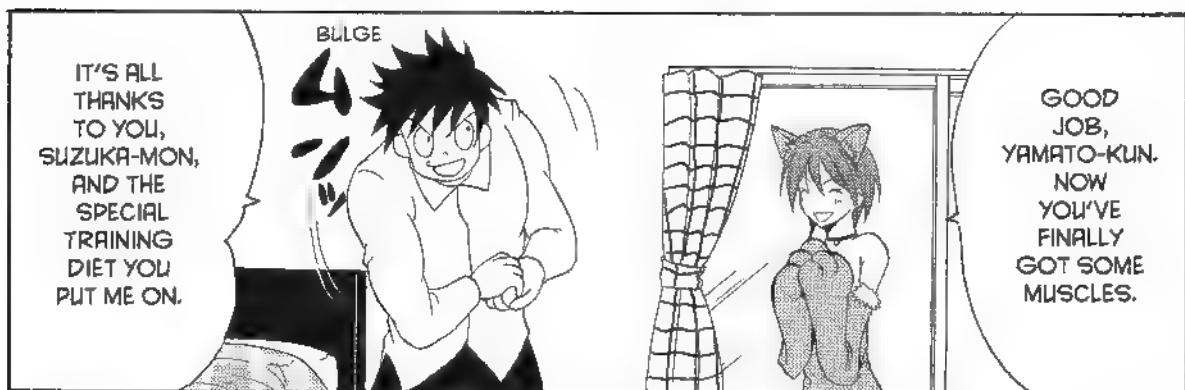






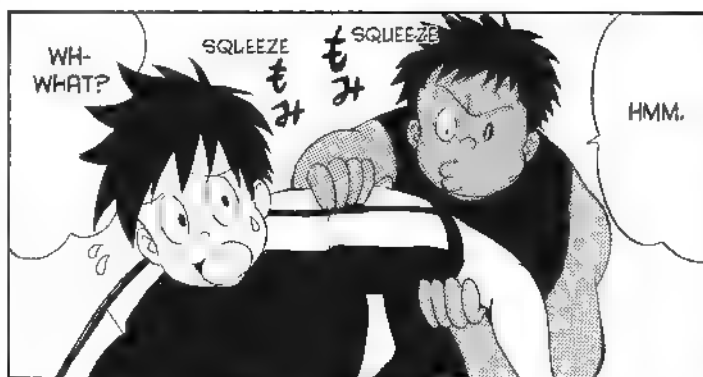








WHAT WILL BECOME OF YAMATO AND SUZUKA-MON? FIND OUT IN THE NEXT EPISODE. WAIT, IS THERE REALLY GONNA BE A NEXT EPISODE?



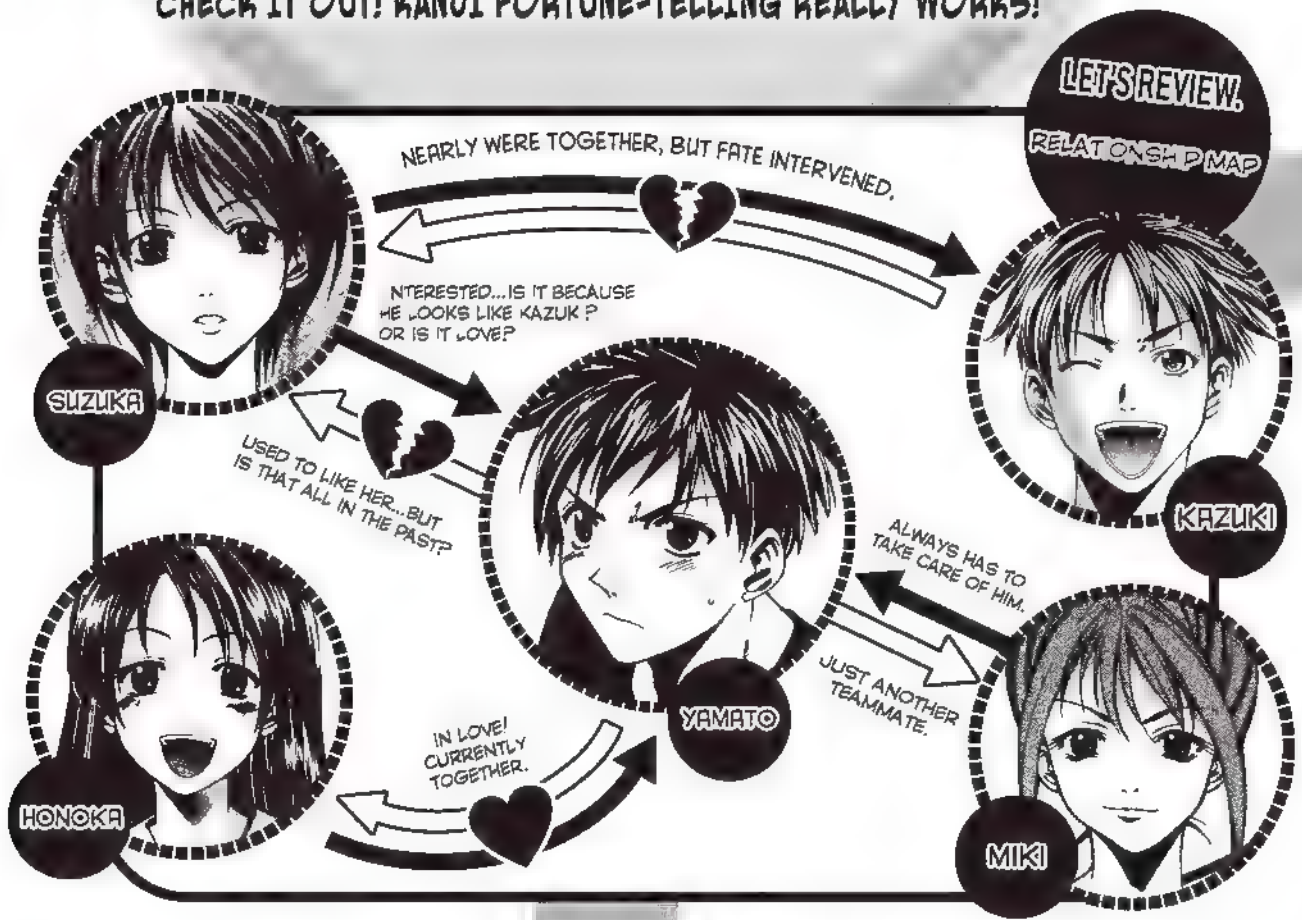
THE SEARCH FOR YAMATO'S IDEAL GIRLFRIEND

A KANJI FORTUNE-TELLING COMPATIBILITY TEST

HAS SUZUKA HAD A CHANGE OF HEART SINCE YAMATO STARTED GOING OUT WITH HONOKA?

...LOOKS LIKE THIS LOVE STORY IS GETTING MORE AND MORE COMPLICATED. THAT'S WHY...WE DECIDED TO DO A LITTLE COMPATIBILITY FORTUNE-TELLING TO DETERMINE WHOSE PERSONALITY WOULD MESH BEST WITH YAMATO'S! COMPARE OUR KANJI FORTUNE-TELLING COMPATIBILITY RESULTS WITH THE CHARACTERS' PERSONALITIES IN THE BOOK TO SEE IF THEY MATCH UP.

CHECK IT OUT! KANJI FORTUNE-TELLING REALLY WORKS!





**AKITSUKI
YAMATO**

NUMBER OF
STROKES
IN HIS
NAME: 24



**CHARACTER
PROFILE**

VERY SIMPLE AND SOMEWHAT NAÏVE. NOT MUCH OF A DEEP THINKER. BUT ONCE HE STARTS THINKING, HE LOSES SIGHT OF EVERYTHING ELSE. DOESN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT WOMEN.

**FORTUNE-
TELLING
RESULTS**

STUBBORN, HARDHEADED, AND ASSERTIVE. BUT WHEN HE ACTUALLY TAKES THE TIME TO LISTEN TO OTHER PEOPLE'S IDEAS, HE REALLY STARTS TO MAKE PROGRESS. AS STUBBORN AS HE IS, HE IS ALSO VERY CONSIDERATE TOWARD HIS FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES. THIS SHOULD HELP HIM LIVE A FULFILLING FAMILY LIFE.

YOU'VE GOTTA LISTEN TO PEOPLE MORE, YAMATO!



**SUZUKA
ASAHINA**

NUMBER OF
STROKES
IN HER
NAME: 44



**CHARACTER
PROFILE**

FULL OF PRIDE. SHE HOLDS HERSELF AND OTHERS TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS. SHE ACTS TOUGH AND RARELY ALLOWS HERSELF TO APPEAR VULNERABLE, BUT... COULD SHE ACTUALLY BE A LONELY SOUL?

**FORTUNE-
TELLING
RESULTS**

INTELLIGENT AND FULL OF PRIDE. HAS A NERVOUS TEMPERAMENT AND IS EASILY IRRITATED. BUT IN THE FUTURE SHE WILL FIND HER SOULMATE AND HAVE A FAMILY. SHE WILL ENJOY A LOVING RELATIONSHIP.

FULL OF PRIDE... THAT PART'S DEFINITELY RIGHT!



**HONOKA
SAKURAI**

NUMBER OF
STROKES
IN HER
NAME: 33



**CHARACTER
PROFILE**

SWEET AND CUTE WITH A VERY WARM PERSONALITY. IF ONE HAD TO COMPARE HER TO A COLOR...IT'D BE PINK. BUT GIRLS LIKE HER OFTEN HAVE A BOLD, AGGRESSIVE SIDE HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN.

**FORTUNE-
TELLING
RESULTS**

GOOD-NATURED AND GENTLE, WITH A LOVING PERSONALITY HAS NO DESIRE TO STAND OUT, SO SOMETIMES SHE GOES UNNOTICED. BUT SHE'S STEADILY BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION THAT WILL LEAD HER TO SUCCESS. SHE WILL BE BLESSED WITH A GOOD SOURCE OF INCOME. SHE WILL HAVE GOOD LUCK WITH MONEY AND CHILD REARING.

BLESSED WITH A GOOD SOURCE OF INCOME? DOES THAT MEAN SHE'LL MARRY INTO MONEY?



**MIKI
HASHIBA**

NUMBER OF
STROKES
IN HER
NAME: 33



**CHARACTER
PROFILE**

HAS NO PROBLEM SHOWING HER FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS. SHE'S TOUGH BUT HAS A VERY CHEERFUL PERSONALITY. GOOD AT TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE.

**FORTUNE-
TELLING
RESULTS**

PROUD AND STUBBORN. DESPISES LAZINESS AND IMMORAL BEHAVIOR. SEES EVERYTHING IN TERMS OF BLACK AND WHITE. WOMEN WITH THIS PERSONALITY OFTEN TAKE THE DOMINANT ROLE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS.

THE DOMINANT ROLE...I CAN SEE THAT.

THE RESULTS!

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE GOOD FOLKS AT [HTTP://WWW.KOUFUKUNE.JP](http://www.koufukune.jp) FOR THEIR HELP WITH THE FORTUNE-TELLING.

THE BICKERING NEVER CEASES WITH SUZUKA AND YAMATO, BUT THEY STILL MIGHT GET ALONG AS A COUPLE. MIKI AND YAMATO WOULD BE BEST FRIENDS AND LOVERS. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HONOKA-CHAN AND YAMATO MIGHT BE THE BEST MATCH. AS LONG AS YAMATO DOESN'T ABUSE HONOKA'S NATURAL SWEETNESS, THEY COULD BE A PERFECT COUPLE. LOOKS LIKE THESE FORTUNES ARE PRETTY MUCH IN LINE WITH WHAT'S TAKING PLACE IN THE STORY. BUT I GET THE FEELING THAT ROUGH WATERS LIE AHEAD FOR YAMATO AND HONOKA.

SO...

SUZUKA GETS MORE AND MORE EXCITING WITH EVERY VOLUME!

LOOK FOR BOOK 7 IN STORES SOON!

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Pocari, page 70

Pocari Sweat is a popular sports drink similar to Gatorade.



Chestnut season, page 90

Chestnuts are a common snack in Japan. In the fall and winter they're sold by street vendors. Chestnut sweets and cakes are very popular seasonal treats.



Fall reading, page 104

In Japan, fall is considered the best time of year to enjoy a novel. In bookstores, come autumn, there is often a special section of fall reading material.



MD player, page 105

MiniDiscs are miniature CDs that can be used for recording. MD players are wildly popular in Japan, but the technology has never quite caught on in the States.



Bulgari, page 149

Bulgari is a high-end Italian fashion brand.



Hermès bag, page 150

The beautifully made leather bags from the French fashion house Hermès are among the most coveted luxury handbags. Grace Kelly and Jackie Onassis were two famous fans of Hermès bags. With a price tag running around five digits, a Hermès bag is way out of Yamato's price range.



Cawae magazine, page 154

This is a play on the popular girls' fashion magazine title *Cawaii*, which is itself a play on the Japanese word for "cute," *kawaii*.



Lost in Shinjuku, page 160

Shinjuku Station is one of the largest central train stations in Tokyo. Around three million people pass through the station each day. It's a city within a city replete with restaurants, department stores, and underground shopping promenades. It's notoriously confusing to navigate one's way through the station.





Ikebukuro, page 161

Ikebukuro is another central Tokyo shopping district famous for its huge department stores.

Shibuya, page 166

Shibuya is yet another famous Tokyo shopping district. It's very popular with young people.



Marui and Isetan, page 167

Marui and Isetan are both department stores.

Suzuka-mon, page 177

This Suzuka-mon bonus comic is a parody of the famous Japanese cartoon character Doraemon. Doraemon is a catlike creature with a magical pocket containing an endless supply of useful gadgets.



Kanji fortune-telling, page 186

Aishou uranai is a method of fortune-telling where the kanji in a person's first and last name are used to determine their personality type. The fortune is determined by adding up the number of strokes in all the kanji characters in the name.



Preview of Volume 7

We're pleased to present you with a preview of volume 7. Please check our website (www.delreymanga.com) to see when this volume will be available in English. For now you'll have to make do with Japanese!

アイツ
あれがいいとかこれがいいとか
散々オレのこと連れ回してきア

そんで
二人で渋谷まで回って
気が付いたらもう
夕方なんだもん

.....

そ...
そうなんだ...

そうだよオ
腹減ったし疲れたし
フラフラで

朝比奈もなんか
機嫌悪くなつて
くるし...

それで結局 オレが
選んだのが一番よくてき

だったらオレ一人で
行ったほうが マシ
だったよ 絶対!

.....

...
どうして

そんなに
楽しそうに
話すの...?



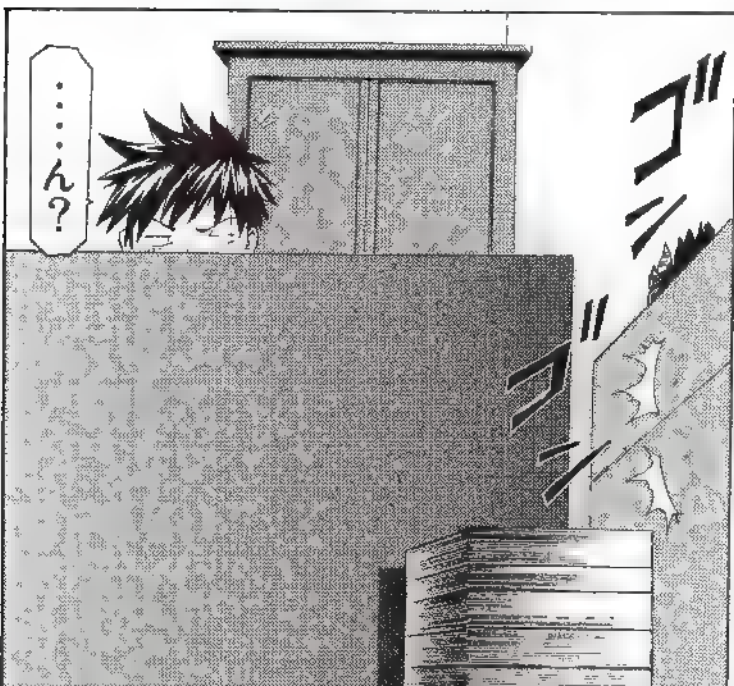
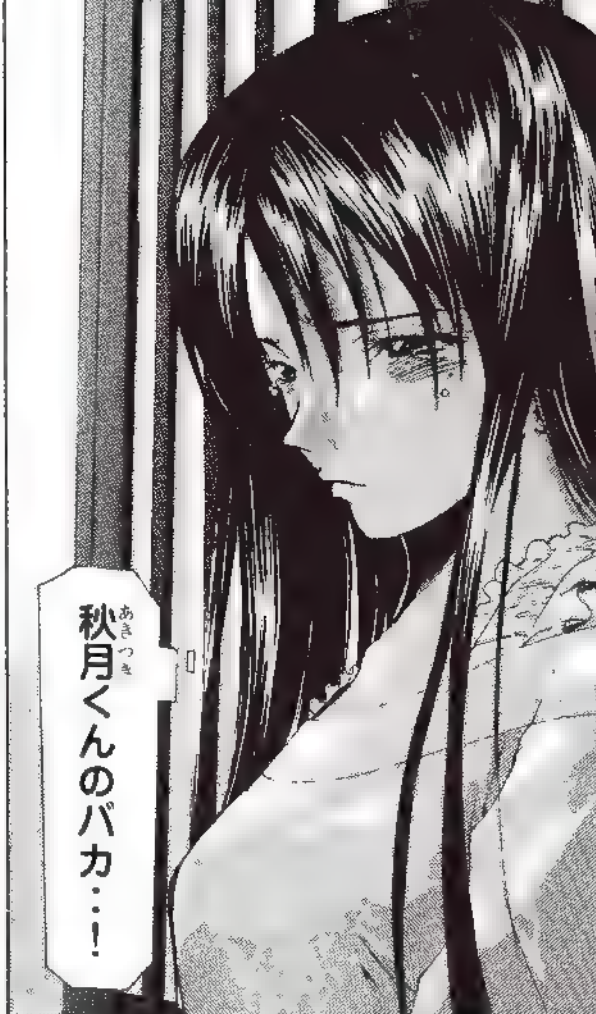
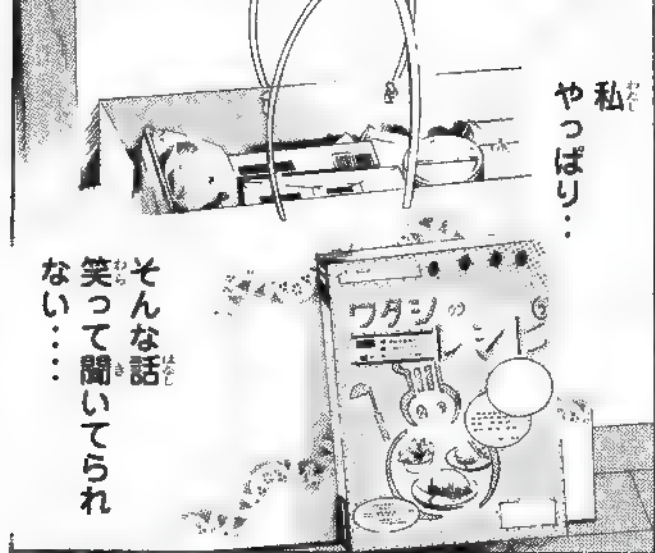
これ……

やっぱり返す……
かえ

は!
!?

ガラガラ

あ……
まの
萌果ちゃん!!



Aventura

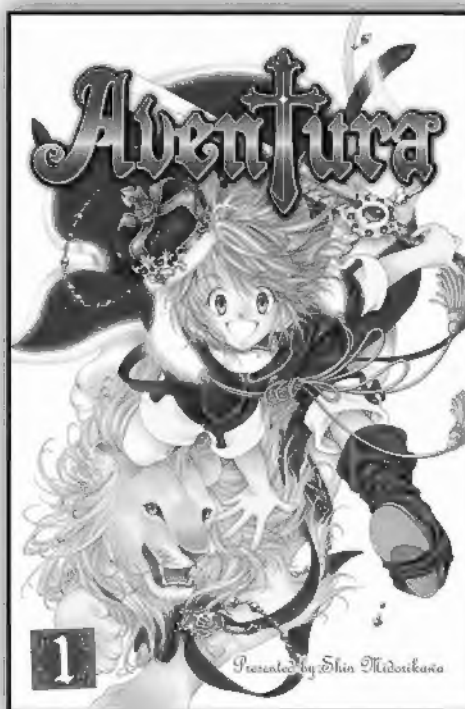
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RATING M AGES 18+

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